

A HISTORY OF HAYWOOD COUNTY

by

W. Thomas Reeves



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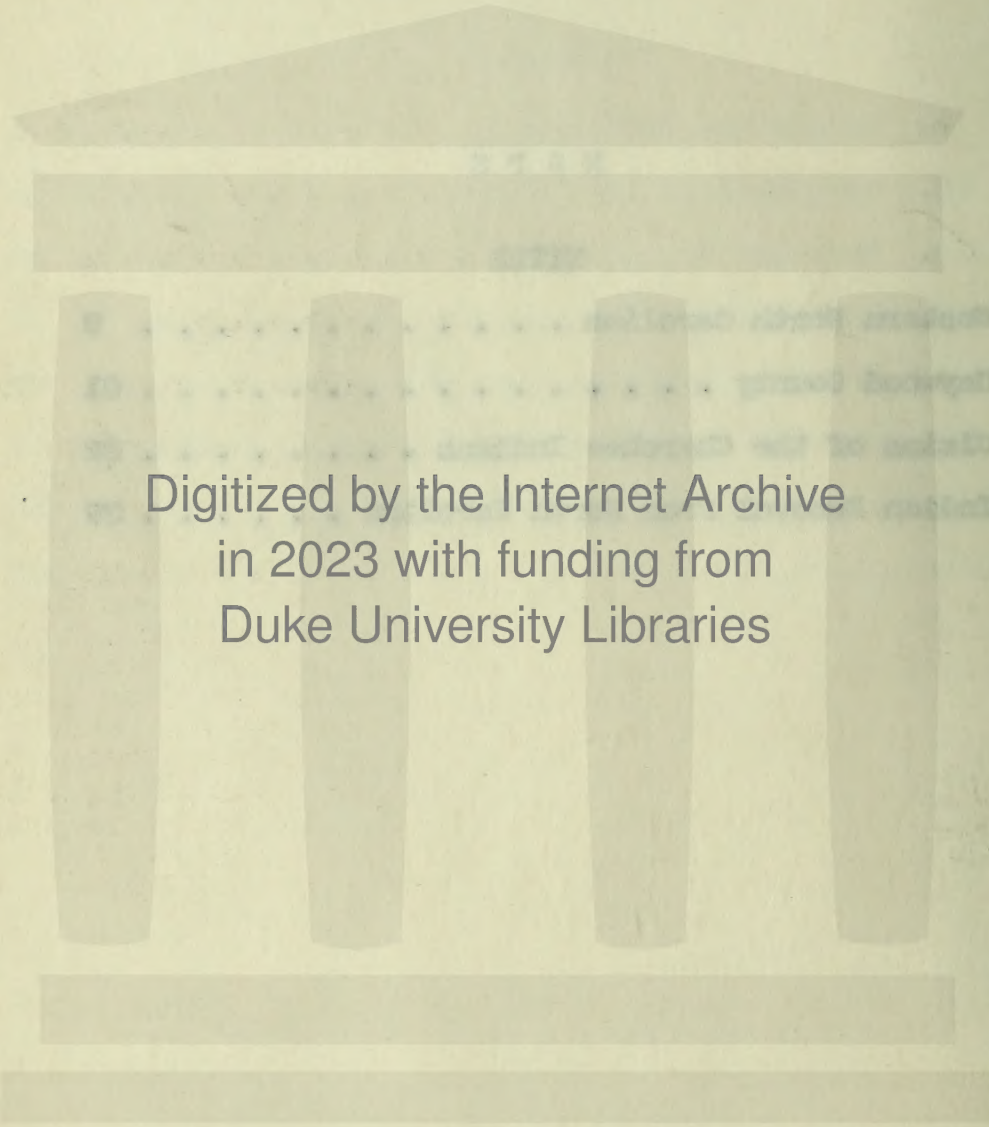
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of which from the French word *mont* which means mountain, the top of some *montagne* means a mountain. This is the name of that famous mountain, the Great Smoky Mountains, which are the highest mountains in the State. The name of this mountain is derived from the fact that the smoke of the fires which are kindled on the mountain is so thick that it often hides the mountain from view. The name of this mountain is also derived from the fact that the smoke of the fires which are kindled on the mountain is so thick that it often hides the mountain from view. The name of this mountain is also derived from the fact that the smoke of the fires which are kindled on the mountain is so thick that it often hides the mountain from view.

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## Chapter I

### ORIGIN AND SETTLEMENT

In 1808 General Thomas Love, a representative of Duncombe County, introduced the following bill to the General Assembly:

An Act, erecting the west part of Duncombe into a separate and distinct County, and also part of Brunswick and a part of Bladen counties into a separate and distinct County.

Whereas the inhabitants in the west part of Duncombe County are very inconvenient to the court-house in said county, which renders the attendance of jurors and witnesses very burdensome and expensive and almost impossible in the winter season, for remedy whereof;

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That all that part of the county of Duncombe, (to wit) beginning where the southern boundary of this state crosses the highest part of the ridge dividing the waters of the French Broad from those of the Tucky Siege then along said ridge to the ridge dividing the waters of Pigeon from the French Broad then with said ridge to the top of mount Pisgah; thence a direct line to the mouth of first branch emptying into Hominy Creek on the North side above Jesse Dolieu's; thence with said branch to the source; thence along the top of the ridge dividing the waters of the French Broad and those of the Pigeon river to the northern boundary of this State, and with the State line to the line which shall divide this State and the State of Georgia, and with that line to the beginning, shall be and is hereby erected into a separate and distinct county, by the name of Haywood, in honor of the present Treasurer of this State.<sup>1</sup>

Other sections of the above act provided for the appointment of justices of the peace and invested them with proper authority; designated the district of which Haywood would be a part; listed

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<sup>1</sup>North Carolina Public and Private Laws, 1808, 1, 1.





rules for holding elections; provided for the collection of a tax of three shillings on every poll and of one shilling on every one hundred acres of land; established courts and gave them authority to act.

Furthermore it was enacted that John Stevenson, John Montgomery, John Dobson, William Deaver, Hugh Davidson, Hollyman Battle, and John Bryson be appointed commissioners to select the site for public buildings, and that Felix Walker, John McFarland, and Thomas Lenoir be appointed commissioners for the purpose of erecting these buildings for Haywood County.

Previous to 1808, however, the more than three thousand square miles of territory taken from Buncombe County had an interesting history. Although settlement was retarded, exploration began soon after the discovery of America. History says that a Spaniard, Hernando De Soto, came into the land of the Indians as early as 1540, and it is believed that the army led by this famous general gazed upon the Great Smokies. After De Soto more than a century elapsed before white man again penetrated this vastness. James Needham and Gabriel Arthur, Englishmen, visited the Overhill homes of the Cherokee Indians in 1673. In 1725 Colonel George Chicken visited the Cherokees, and Sir Alexander Oving sent some of the natives to visit the king in London.<sup>2</sup>

Other explorers came a few years after the middle of the eighteenth century, including William Bartram and Lieutenant Henry

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<sup>2</sup>Nineteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, part 1, pp.23-61. Also see The Asheville Citizen-Times, Asheville, N. C., June 9, 1935.





Timberlake. Clingman, Guyot, and Mitchell are names which will never be forgotten within this mountain section. However, it seems by reading colonial records that little attention was given to places west of Salisbury. Evidence shows, or seems to indicate, that Indians still occupied and controlled all land from the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge. In writing of the German settlement in North Carolina, the Reverend G. William Welker speaks of the present county of Catawba in the following manner:

This county of Catawba was largely settled by Germans from Pennsylvania. The pioneer of these immigrants was Henry Weidner (Whitner), who about 1745, came alone to this region to hunt and trap. He lived in peace with the Indians, who still held the soil. He was wont to go back to the civilized world each spring, carrying his pelts, &c., on several horses.<sup>3</sup>

In 1770 Reverend Mr. Draige, writing from Salisbury to Governor Tryon, referred to the western part of the state as the "Back Frontier". This preacher of the Church of England went into the territory west of Salisbury which he described as a country of "seven thousand souls or nine hundred families inhabiting a county of one hundred and eighty miles in length and one hundred and twenty in breadth".<sup>4</sup>

Few, if any, whites had penetrated as early as the third quarter of the eighteenth century into the territory which later became Haywood County. This was probably due to the fact that settlers were not crowded in the east while the west was protected

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<sup>3</sup>Colonial Records of North Carolina, p. 750.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., 505.





from white man's advancement by the war-like Cherokees. Writing in 1765 Lieutenant Governor Bull told the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners for Trade that " . . . I had no intention of going beyond the reputed Boundary of my own province tho' I hear the people of North Carolina are making quick advance to the foot of the Cherokee Mountains which is the chief hunting ground for the Lower Cherokees."<sup>5</sup>

The line to which the writer refers was at the headwaters of Catawba near Marion. It appears evident that whites had just begun touching the foothills of the Blue Ridge and were making no serious threat to cross into the valley of the French Broad or Pigeon Rivers. Only trails led from the civilization of Europe to the fringe of western ideas among the American Indians at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It does not seem logical from all evidence to believe that many people were in the present bounds of Haywood County before the Revolutionary War. In 1767 Governor Tryon referred to the land beyond the Indian boundary as "this unsettled part of the country". Furthermore, the tax returns of Rowan showed the number of taxables to be only 3059 in 1766; thus with a large county having so few people, and those below the Blue Ridge, it appears that the "unsettled part of the country" existed only in a meager fashion for the white settlers before their first struggle with the mother country.

At the commencement of the Revolutionary war the territory now lying on and near the eastern base of the 'Blue Ridge' . . . constituted the borders of civilization, and suffered frequently from marauding bands of Cherokee Indians . . . . The whole country west of Tryon county (afterward Lincoln) was sparsely settled with the families

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<sup>5</sup>Colonial Records of N. C., p. 561.





of adventurous individuals . . .

according to Hunter in his Sketches of Western North Carolina.<sup>6</sup>

Nevertheless, the first census shows over seven and one-half thousand people in Burke County, a county which included all territory within and west of its present boundary. Buncombe, a county formed from Burke, had more than five thousand whites in 1800, and Haywood County, cut from Buncombe in 1808, had more than two and one-half thousand whites recorded in its first census. When the Blue Ridge barrier finally broke with the incessant hammering of the pioneers, settlers poured into the rich farming and pasture lands of the French Broad and later into the lower lands of the Pigeon River and its tributaries. Land grants were obtained from the courts of Burke County and later from those of Buncombe. It is not known when the first people came to live on their newly acquired territory.

"Perhaps the first effort at home building in the present limits of Haywood County", according to Professor Allen, "was made by David Nelson, who . . . came from Burke County . . . about the spring of 1785, planted, and raised a crop of corn at the 'Gardens' on Pigeon river near where Canton now stands."<sup>7</sup>

According to records of the courts in Burke, Buncombe, and Haywood Counties, the majority of the early land grants obtained in the latter county were issued after 1790 and before the formation of this county in 1808. However, no treaties had removed the Cherokee Indians from Haywood territory until as late as 1836, and not

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<sup>6</sup>C. L. Hunter, Sketches, p. 328.

<sup>7</sup>W. C. Allen, Annals of Haywood County, pp. 34-35.





even the attempt at removal left the entirety of this mountainous section open for settlement. Nevertheless, as usual, the whites disregarded the rights of the red men and moved into every valley of importance before 1808. Land grants were secured early and Haywood County's first citizens moved into a rich inheritance of grazing and farming land. In the majority of cases these pioneers remained on their farms, leaving them to a posterity that has lived close to the soil.

On a beautiful ridge which separates the waters of Raccoon and Richland Creeks a small village had been started by settlers coming in before the formation of Haywood County. Some families already prominent in state affairs became the leading citizens of the newly organized county. According to authority granted them by the state legislature it became the duty of some of these men to select a county seat, lay out its streets, provide its public buildings, designate voting precincts, and plan for all other features which were necessary in order for a newly organized territory to take its place alongside other counties of the state.

The following act copied from the laws of North Carolina will probably furnish sufficient details about the erection of a county seat:

Whereas, by an act of the General Assembly, passed at Raleigh in 1808 entitled

An act erecting the western part of Buncombe into a separate and distinct county, . . . there were Commissioners appointed to fix on a suitable place at or near the center of the county of Haywood, whereon to erect the public buildings of said county; and whereas the said Commissioners did fix on a spot of ground then the property of Colonel Robert Love, about eighty poles a southwestwardly direction from the said Love's dwelling-house, as the most suitable place for the purpose aforesaid: And whereas the said Robert Love has by deed con-





veyed to said Commissioners a certain portion of land, including the part aforesaid; and whereas the said Commissioners have laid off said lands to them conveyed by the said Robert Love, into a town, by the name of Waynesville, consisting of a public square, thirty half acre lots, a main street and cross street. And whereas the said Commissioners have sold a number of said lots by them so laid off, to the highest bidder, for the sole purpose of applying the money arising from such sales to defraying the expenses of erecting the public buildings of said county.<sup>8</sup>

The commissioners selected by legislative act found it impossible to provide public buildings as soon as they were needed. Sufficient funds could not be collected immediately and the court house and jail were not ready until 1812, in which year the first court was held within the new building. Before this date, however, officers had been elected by the first court of pleas and quarter sessions, which was held in 1809. According to tradition the new town thus formed was named Waynesville in honor of General Anthony Wayne, under whom Colonel Love served in the Revolutionary War.

From this very humble beginning Haywood County and its county seat have grown steadily until the present time. The first census indicates that Waynesville had only 225 inhabitants as late as 1800. Ten years later it did not have five hundred people, yet it was by far the largest village in the county. Other important settlements began to show life a few years before the present century. Canton's population had increased to 236 and Clyde had ninety people when the census was taken in 1800. In 1900 there were not two thousand people in all towns of Haywood County.

Below is a very interesting description of surrounding territory and the county seat prior to 1875. The writer described the

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<sup>8</sup>North Carolina Laws, 1810, LXI, p.30.





country as he approached and entered Waynesville from the Jonathan Creek section.

Troops of children played about the doors of all the cabins along these roads. Families of ten and twelve are by no means uncommon. Girls and boys work afield with their parents in summer, and pass the winter with but limited chances for culture.

Passing around the base of 'Jonathan's Creek Bald', we came into a more open and fertile country, where the farm-houses were neatly built and painted, and the wheat-fields were wide and well stocked.

\* \* \* \* \*

The town is composed of one long street of wooden houses . . . . It has a trio of country stores; a cozy and delightful little hotel, nestling under the shade of a huge tree; an old wooden church perched on a hill, with a cemetery filled with ancient tombs, where the early settlers lie at rest, and an academy.

There is no whir of wheels. The only manufacturing establishments are flour-mills located on the various creeks and rivers, or a stray saw-mill; while here and there a wealthy land owner is building an elegant home with all the modern improvements. By nine o'clock at night there is hardly a light in the village; a few belated horsemen steal noiselessly through the street, or the faint tinkle of a banjo and the patter of a negro's feet testify to an innocent merry-making. The Court-House of Haywood county, and the Jail, both modest two-story brick structures, are the public buildings, the Jail having only now and then an inmate, for the county is as orderly as a community of Quakers.<sup>9</sup>

Since the formation of Haywood County six counties have been formed from its original territory west of the Balsam Mountains. Macon County, formed in 1828, with a population of 5333 and 531 square miles of territory was the first to be organized. In 1839 Cherokee, with a population at the county's first census of 3427, took 451 more square miles from the original territory owned by Haywood County. Jackson was formed in 1851 with 494 square miles of land and 5515 people according to the census of 1860. Clay was

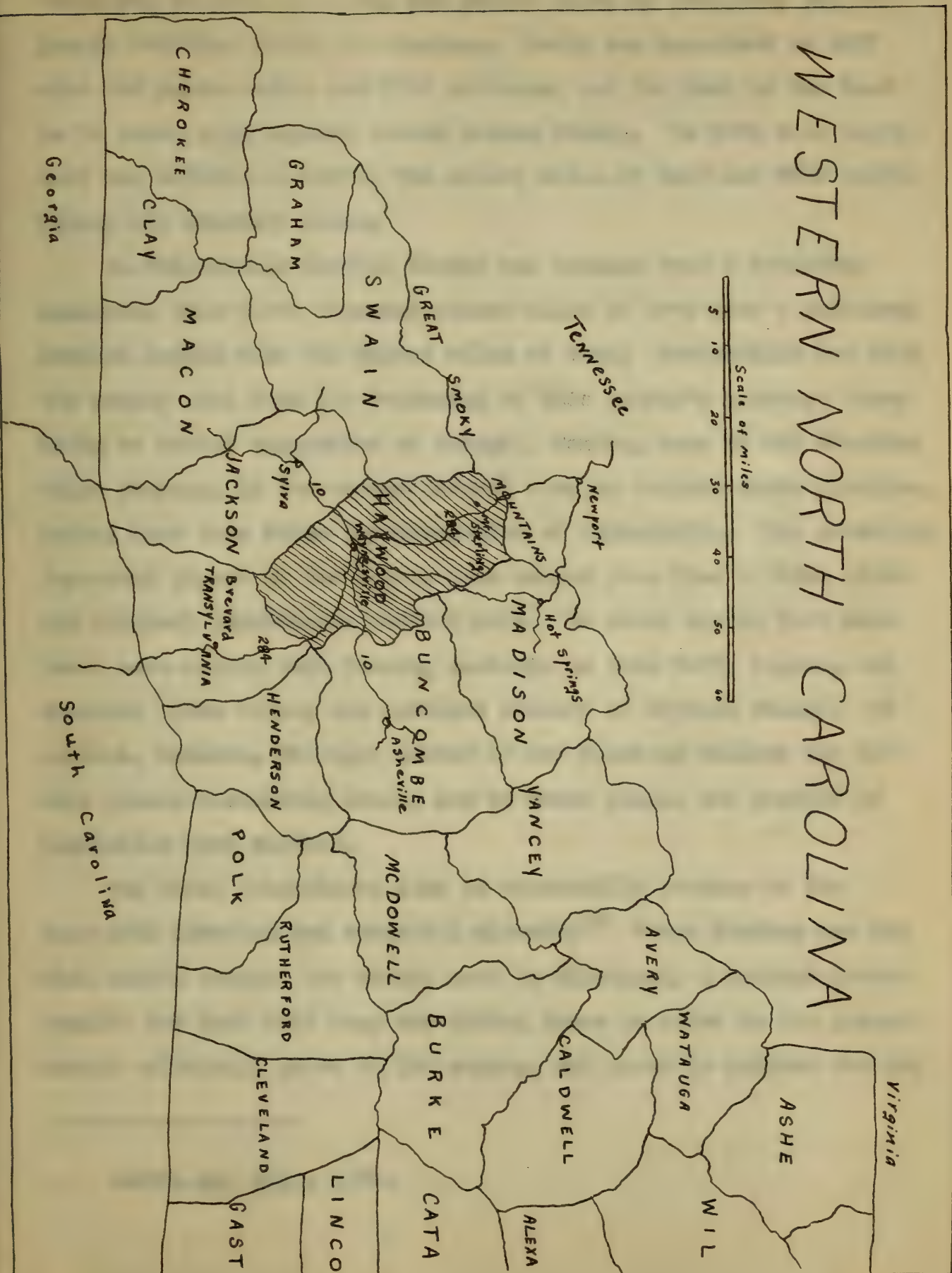
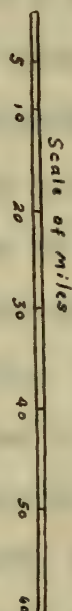
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<sup>9</sup>Edward King, The Southern States of North America, div. iii, pp. 486-488.

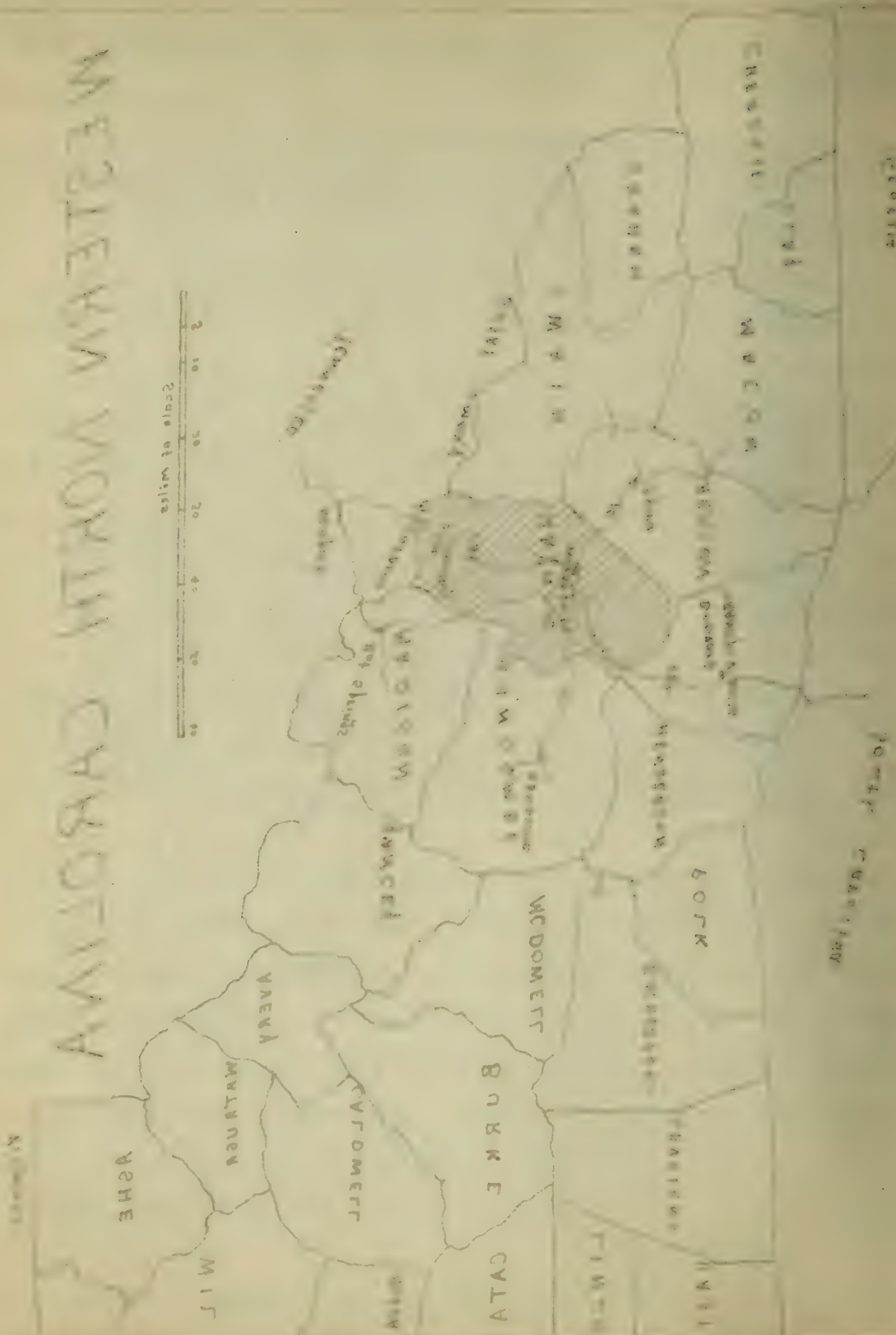
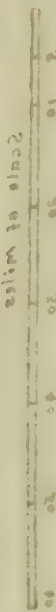




# WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



# WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA





organized in 1861 with only 185 square miles of territory and 2461 people residing within its borders. Swain was organized in 1871 with 560 square miles and 3784 citizens. And the last of the land to be taken from Haywood formed Graham County. In 1872 this territory was organized, having 302 square miles of land and 2335 people within her boundary lines.

In this manner Haywood County was changed from a territory occupying over three thousand square miles of area into a political section having only 341 square miles of land. Waynesville has been the county seat from the beginning of this county's history, there being no recent suggestion of change. Canton, home of the Champion Fibre Company, is the second largest town in Western North Carolina, having more than twice the population of Waynesville. The so-called important places of the county have varied from time to time since the original inhabitants settled here. No doubt social life centered more around such farming sections as Iron Duff, Pigeon, and Jonathan Creek during the earliest history of Haywood County. At present, however, villages served by the Southern Railway are the only places resembling towns, and to these places the centers of population have shifted.

The first inhabitants came to Waynesville because of its beautiful location and wonderful climate.<sup>10</sup> These factors are its main assets today. The county seat is distinctly a tourist center despite the fact that many are living there to serve as its governmental officials, serve in its courts, and cater to natives who are

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Allen, op. cit., p.38.





drawn there by the town's natural advantages for trade.

Canton, the fastest growing town in the county during the last decade, is a manufacturing center to its very core. An estimate would place four-fifths of its working population in the employ of one large paper pulp mill which was constructed in recent years. All classes of stores that are usually found in towns of five thousand people are located in Canton. They not only serve the residents but also supply many needs of the surrounding territory, especially in the Pigeon section of Haywood County. It appears that natives control most of this trade, and the manufacturing center contains some of the original families. However, on the other hand, it is evident that Canton has a higher percentage of those not native than any other section of this mountain country. These settlers of course have moved in since the building of the pulp mill.

Hazelwood, another distinctly manufacturing town, has witnessed a rapid growth during the past fifteen years. Descendants of original settlers have moved there to work in the factories, while those not native have moved here from other states to make employment possible. This town, too, contains family names of original settlers, but by far the majority of influential men living within its limits moved in from other states. Unlike Canton, Hazelwood has more than one manufacturing interest. Also the latter town, although much smaller, has a section which is occupied by tourists during the summer months. As a whole Hazelwood was very insignificant in 1920 with a population of less than five hundred. However, with a shift in population made within the county and others moving there during the past fifteen years this town is one of the most





important sections of the county.

Clyde, fourth town in size, contains many original families. In fact, few outsiders have moved in, and thus this village has had a steady but slow growth since 1900. Some tourists visit during the summer; nevertheless, it does not appear that Clyde has shown any material growth. Its one important flour mill has almost ceased to do business, and it is certain that fewer cattle are shipped from its yards. There has been little, if any, shift in this town's population. Possibly a few being added, about ten each year, is due to an increase in the birth rate.

Lake Junaluska, formerly Tuscola, is principally a tourist center. Since the establishment of the Methodists' assembly grounds the population has increased because several natives moved into nearby coves to render service to tourist trade. Also, the Junaluska Supply Company, with its lumber yards and other activities, has caused a few natives to shift their residences. If the Methodist Church had no interest here, an interest which has included the building of a beautiful lake, this division of the county would be only a poor farming section when compared with some other parts of Haywood County.

In conclusion it appears that farming sections have had a steady settlement and grown in population of people native to Haywood County; that the two manufacturing towns have been favored with rapid settlement since the establishment of industries during recent years; and that other places have depended and are still depending on tourists to add to the growth of their population. It also seems evident that the population of Haywood County has shifted from time to time both as to location and number. Families





moved into wooded areas, such as the Sunburst section, for an example, until all desirable timber was cut, and then went to other places within the county to continue their trade. Also, the population in almost any locality, especially Waynesville and Lake Junaluska, increases during the summer months due to an influx of visitors.





## Chapter II

### GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

Haywood County is in the center of the mountains of Western North Carolina. Situation and topography has greatly influenced its history. On account of geographical features of this county discovery, exploration, and settlement were delayed, and development has been slowly accomplished. Until comparatively recent years Haywood County has been beyond the frontier, isolated by innumerable mountain barriers which have played an equally important part in shaping the lives of these people as the old western frontier had in molding the destiny of the pioneers.

Behind the Newfound Mountains, the Pisgah Range, the Balsam Mountains, and the Great Smoky Chain is found what people claim to be pure Anglo-Saxon blood. Customs which seem strange to visitors are found in this area. Log cabins, corduroy roads, ox wagons, and spinning wheels still linger as proofs of an interesting history. In the past, geographical features have made this a land of small farms, mountain pastures, and water mills. Today Haywood County is the same, plus numerous modern developments, especially in industry and transportation, which have placed it alongside the most advanced mountainous sections.

If the works of some writers are to be accepted, Haywood County had an interesting geological history several thousand years before white men visited American shores. The central theme of their findings tells of an ancient river which drained Western North Carolina as it slowly meandered from Murphy through Bryson City, Sylva, Waynesville, and Asheville into South Carolina and





onward to the Atlantic Ocean. Of course the present drainage system places all water west of the Blue Ridge Mountains within the basin of the Mississippi River.

Mr. La Gorce wrote in the National Geographic Magazine:

In the high valley between the Blue Ridge and the Great Smoky Mountains, in western North Carolina, one may inspect another of the great river battlefields of the world. The stories its landscape tells of Titanic struggles over watersheds, of battles over divides, and of fights without quarter over stream beds, are legion.

In the geological long ago a magnificent stream occupied this great, canoe-shaped structural valley that began in southwest Virginia and ended in northwest Georgia. One branch of this river rose in southwest Virginia and flowed in a southwesterly direction past Asheville, where it was joined by the other branch, which had its headwaters in the extreme southwest corner of North Carolina, and flowed by Murphy, Bryson City, and Waynesville to its confluence with its sister fork a little below Asheville.

Their mingled waters ran along the upper valleys of the present French Broad River and Mud Creek; thence into South Carolina and out to the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>1</sup>

This writer continued by stating that it was truly a beautiful region which this river drained, and was land too fair to escape the clutches of some great master river. The Pigeon River of Haywood County was not inactive in a war for more water and a greater drainage basin. According to Mr. La Gorce, it pounded its way through the Great Smoky barrier and on past Truelove Mountain into the drainage area around Waynesville.

Therefore, a mighty river which flowed through Haywood County had been destroyed, with the possible exception of a few small streams continuing to follow its course for a part of their journey. Some lawless streams may yet pay the penalty for their piracy.

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<sup>1</sup>John Oliver La Gorce, "Pirate Rivers and Their Prizes," The National Geographic Magazine, L, 1 (July 1926), pp. 93 and 96.





Hominy Creek, draining a small portion of Haywood and Buncombe Counties, is eating into the soil near Canton while its head is less than one mile from the more elevated bed of the plundering Pigeon.

H. C. Wilburn, for several years an engineer for the North Carolina Park Commission, related nearly the same story as well as maintained that the western section of the state had been extremely mountainous, later eroding and wearing down to a plain only a few hundred feet above sea level. He stated that the Great Smokies, never exceeding 3000 feet above sea level, furnished the divide between the waters of the Atlantic and the Mississippi. Between this mountain range and the Blue Ridge, Mr. Wilburn pictured a valley and the mighty river referred to by Mr. La Cerce.

Then, according to Mr. Wilburn, in this stage of geological history the eastern section of North America made a general uprising, causing the streams to flow more rapidly. Finally the streams in Tennessee, having lower basins, began to eat their ways into the Great Smokies. Some stream reached Big Creek near Waterville. This stream continued until it reached Canton where the mighty river was tapped.<sup>2</sup>

W. C. Allen wrote nearly the same information. He stated that the master river started in Virginia, being joined in Western North Carolina by another prong.<sup>3</sup>

Doctor Eugene Gidger, a native of Haywood County and now con-

<sup>2</sup>H. C. Wilburn in an interview with the writer, Waynesville, N. C., 1936.

<sup>3</sup>Allen, Annals of Haywood, p.17.





nected with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City gave the following in regard to the geological history of this section:

At Waterville there was a dam which also made a great lake. The 'bottoms' of Upper Pigeon and Richland creek were formed in the bed of a lake which was afterwards drained by the Pigeon, cutting down the narrows below the Coman place. The Love bottoms around Waynesville are the bed of the lake whose dam was at Howell's mill. The Welch bottoms well up toward Balsam Gap are the bed of a lake whose natural dam was later replaced by an <sup>4</sup> artificial one where the old Plott mill stood . . . .

The eastern boundary line of Haywood County as it is known today is about fifteen miles west of Asheville, metropolis of Western North Carolina. This county is bounded on the east by Buncombe and Madison Counties, on the north by the Tennessee state line, on the west by Jackson and Swain Counties, and it is bounded on the south by Jackson and Transylvania Counties. Its easternmost point, approximately eighty-two degrees and forty-five minutes West, extends to a point where Haywood, Transylvania, and Buncombe meet near the peak of Big Pisgah Mountain. On the west this county reaches the top of Mount Guyot, which is approximately eighty-three degrees and fifteen minutes West. The southernmost portion of Haywood County, about thirty-five degrees and seventeen and one-half minutes North, is found where Jackson and Transylvania Counties join near Tennessee Bald. The county goes farther north where Madison County and the Tennessee state line meet at Haywood beyond the headwaters of Cold Spring Creek.

The outline of the county is extremely irregular, following

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<sup>4</sup> Doctor Eugene Odger writing to W. C. Allen and quoted in the latter's Annals of Haywood, p. 21.





the crests of mountain ridges in its entirety. The southern boundary is a mere point near Tennessee Bald. Traveling from here along the county line means going towards the north. The entire county appears to be tilted from the south towards the northwest. The longest place from north to south is from the intersection of the Haywood-Jackson-Transylvania lines to the place where the Haywood-Madison-Tennessee lines meet on the north, being a journey of nearly forty miles. The greatest distance from east to west is some place near a line drawn from Newfound Gap at Canton, by Lake Amalaska, to the Swain County line by way of Jonathan Creek, a distance of about twenty-five miles.

Within this territory is 546 square miles, or 349,440 acres. Here are found some of the highest peaks east of the Rockies. Haywood County has numerous mountains above five thousand feet in elevation. With the exception of Mount Mitchell in Yancey County, most of the tallest mountains are in Haywood.

Toward the east Newfound Mountains hindered the progress of first settlers into this section. On the north the Great Smoky Mountains shut the county from Tennessee. On the west the mighty Balsams are encountered; while on the south the Pisgah peaks complete the four walls which enclosed this mountainous territory from the outside world. The lowest point in the boundary line is at Waterville, which is about fifteen hundred feet; second is the Newfound Gap near Canton, which is 2650 feet; and next is Balsam Gap which is 3316 feet.

The following from a recent survey will furnish an accurate report on various elevations throughout the county of Haywood:





The elevation of the county ranges from about 1,400 feet above seal level at Waterville, where the Pigeon River leaves the county, to 6,636 feet above on the summit of Mount Guyot. Elevations for some of the highest points in the southern part of Tennessee Bald 5,622 feet, Richland Balsam 6,540 feet, Big Pisgah Mountain 5,749 feet, Cold Mountain 6,000 feet, Lickstone Bald 5,741 feet, Plott Balsam 6,200 feet, and in the northern part Crabtree Bald 5,280 feet, Sandymush Bald 5,680 feet, and Mount Sterling 5,600 feet. The general elevation of the mountain ranges is 4,000 to 5,000 feet. The elevation of the valley country at Retreat is 2,800 feet, Canton 2,587, Lake Junaluska 2,594, Waynesville 2,638, Crabtree 2,482, Cataloochee 2,500, and at Waterville, in the extreme northern part, 1,400 feet. The prevailing slope of the county is northward.<sup>5</sup>

There are numerous peaks not mentioned which tower above more famous mountains of northeastern United States. The western, northern, and southern parts of Haywood County are extremely mountainous, with some places especially rough, even precipitous. A few of the mountains have narrow strips of level land on their summit.

Between the mountains of this picturesque county there are vast numbers, and as many varieties, of beautiful valleys. Into these the first people came and made claims to the fertile soil. Today an increased population and changed methods of farming have pushed the people up the tributaries of the Pigeon River until scarcely any large section of the county remains uninhabited. The valleys vary in width from a few yards to more than four miles, containing level and rolling land which is all suitable for farming purposes.

The drainage system of Haywood County is splendid since its

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<sup>5</sup>U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey of Haywood County, North Carolina, p. 204.





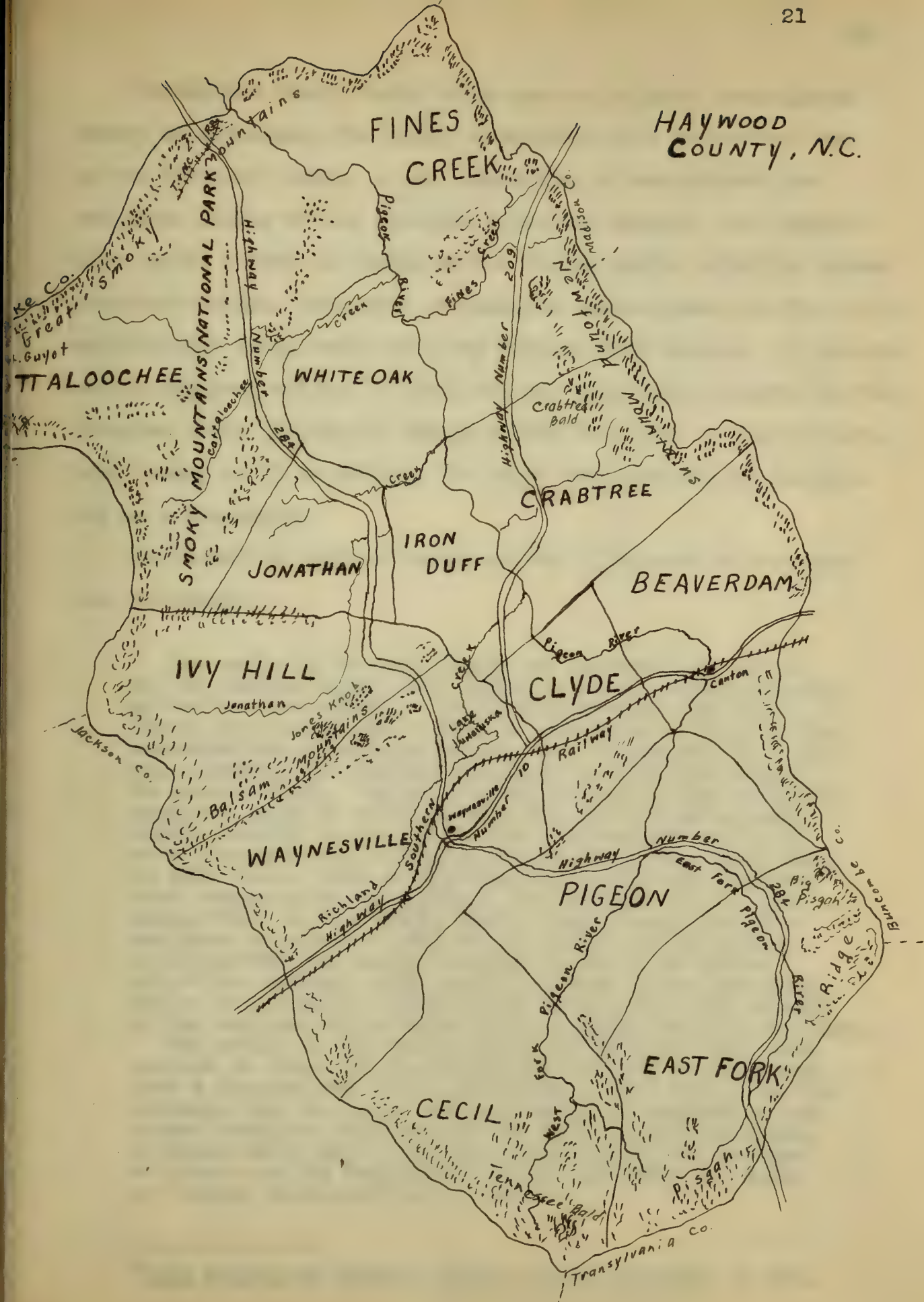
branches reach all parts and send swift streams down deep and narrow valleys. Even the Pigeon River is swift at its southern and northern ends. This river, at Canton, and Richland Creek, at Hazelwood, are polluted by waste from mills, but all other streams of the county are extraordinarily beautiful.

Pigeon River drains almost the entirety of Haywood County, extending its fingers to Pisgah Mountain where two prongs begin their journey before uniting at Woodrow. From here the river moves slightly east to Canton, turns almost west to reach Clyde, and moves northwest to wind to its escape at Waterville. The only portion of the county not drained by this river is a small area beyond Newfound Gap which sheds its water into the French Broad by way of Hominy Creek.

Richland Creek flows northeast from Balsam Gap through Saunook, Hazelwood, and Waynesville before it forms Lake Junaluska and empties into the Pigeon two miles below. Allen, Plott, and Raccoon Creeks are its principal tributaries and enter in the order named. Jonathan Creek, having as its main tributaries Hemphill and Cove Creeks, flows almost directly east from Socco Gap and the Balsam Mountains by Maggie to Dollwood and thence northeast to enter Pigeon River about two miles below the mouth of Cove Creek.

Beaverdam, Crabtree, and Pines Creeks, the important streams entering Pigeon River from its eastern bank, enter the main river about equal distances apart. The first flows into the Pigeon at Canton, the second at Crabtree, and the third a short distance below Hopco. The headwaters of these creeks are in the Newfound Mountains near the Buncombe and Madison County lines. Other streams flowing southwest into Pigeon River are Hurricane, Cold Spring, and Groundhog Creeks.







Haywood  
County, N.C.

CRICK  
CREEK

WHITE OAK

TALCOCK

CRABAPPLE

IRON  
DUFF

WATKINS

IVY HILL

CLAY

WALSHVILLE

PIDGON

EAST FORK

CECIL

In Haywood County today there are to be found three lakes worthy of notation. The first, compounded by a forty-foot dam across Richland Creek, is Lake Junaluska, a recreational and religious center of the Southern Methodist Church. The largest lake in the county is formed on the Pigeon twelve miles up stream from Waterville. This dam, of concrete construction 180 feet high and 870 feet long, backs water up stream for a distance of approximately eighteen miles. A small dam has been built recently by the Champion Fibre Company of Canton on the West Fork of Pigeon River. Lake Logan, as it is called, was built for recreational purposes and as a reservoir.

In regard to soils a recent survey of Haywood County gives the following:

The soils of Haywood County are prevailingly brown in the surface layer and yellow to brown, reddish brown, or red in the subsoil. In the wooded areas the upper layer, an inch or two thick, is dark brown, owing to the accumulation of organic matter, and on some of the highest mountains the surface material is very dark brown to nearly black. The prevailing texture of the strictly mountain soils is mellow loam, and that of the upland valley country a clay loam. The bottom-land soils are more variable, the textures ranging from fine sandy loam to silt loam. Most of the mountain soils have angular rock fragments on the surface and embedded in the soil mass, while on the rough, steep slopes large boulders and bare outcrops of rock are frequent and the underlying bedrock is usually reached at 24 to 36 inches below the surface. The subsoil of most of the mountain soils is a friable, crumbly clay loam, while the subsoil of the rolling valley country is a stiff, brittle red clay.

The soils of the valley, although derived from rocks similar to those of the mountains, are red in color and have a heavier and firmer structure. This difference is probably due to a more advanced stage of weathering and a more complete oxidation of the iron-bearing minerals. Although there are a few rock fragments on the surface in places and an occasional outcrop of rock, the soils are deeply weathered and mature.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Soil Survey of Haywood County, North Carolina, p. 211.





The following table gives the names and actual and relative extent of the several soils found in Haywood County:

Table 1<sup>7</sup>

Soil	Acres	Per cent
Rough stony land . . . . .	109,696	31.4
Porters stony loam . . . . .	108,160	31.0
Porters loam . . . . .	78,784	22.5
Cecil clay loam . . . . .	32,120	9.2
Congaree silt loam . . . . .	4,480	1.3
Congaree stony fine sandy loam . . . . .	4,160	1.2
Burton stony loam . . . . .	3,136	.9
Ashe stony loam . . . . .	2,368	.7
Appling loam . . . . .	1,536	.4
Rock outcrop . . . . .	1,000	.3
Altavista loam . . . . .	832	.2
Total	349,440	100.0

This survey shows that almost one-third of Haywood County is rough stony land. However, it does not mean useless land since the majority of this type is in forests. The rough stony land is especially noticeable in the Pigeon valley beyond Cataloochee Creek, the drainage area of Big Creek, on the left of Jonathan Creek from Dellwood to Soco Gap, and in the Pisgah Range at the headwaters of the Pigeon River. This type of land includes that which has boulders and frequent outcrops of bedrock, showing in some places while hidden a few inches below the surface in others.

About one-third of the land is made of Porters stony loam, a soil consisting of from one to two inches of dark brown loam, a brown mellow loam of from seven to ten inches, and a subsoil of

<sup>7</sup> Soil Survey, p.213.





friable clay loam or clay extending twenty-four to thirty inches. Mount Sterling, Cataloochee, Teague, Dellwood, Sunburst, and Springdale contain the greatest developments of this type of soil.

Almost one-fifth of the county's soil is Porters loam, a soil similar to the stony loam except that it has a deeper subsoil and does not have so many stones. This type is found in practically all parts of the county, but the largest areas are about Fines Creek, Cove Creek, Jonathan, Dellwood, north and south of Clyde, north and east of Canton, west of Waynesville, and in some places around Woodrow and Springdale.

The most important upland soil is Cecil clay loam. In the forested areas the soil consists of two layers; namely, an upper one from one to three inches thick, of light-gray to light-brown or clay loam, and a lower one of reddish-brown to red clay loam continuing to the depth of six to seven inches. In cultivated fields the top soil is a red or reddish-brown clay, having a red, stiff clay subsoil to the depth of thirty-six inches or more. The largest areas of this soil type are north of Jonathan, north of Ironduff, in the vicinity of Waynesville, Lake Junaluska, Clyde, and Canton. Other types of soil are not confined to any locality, being well scattered over the entire county.

Comparatively speaking there are few acres in Haywood County that have been wasted by erosion. Nevertheless, there are many sections that are unproductive, having had their fertility destroyed by the failure of planters to rotate crops. Many acres of upland have been made almost useless by erosion; however, it appears that the farmers of the land have recently begun to better appreciate the advantages of crop rotation, fertilization, and scientific terracing.





On a whole the climate of Haywood County is excellent, possessing a variety which is neither too hot nor too cold for the comfort of the natives, as well as for the comfort and pleasure of numerous tourists that visit this section annually. The average temperature over a thirty-two year period is 54.2 degrees Fahrenheit. The coldest month was February with 37.8 degrees, and the hottest was July with 70.7 degrees. The average maximum was 66.2 degrees; the average minimum was 42.2 degrees. The absolute maximum of 97 degrees, recorded over a thirty-one year period, was in July, while the absolute minimum over the same period of minus 12 was recorded in January.<sup>8</sup>

Over a thirty-two year record the average date of the last killing frost in Haywood County was April 25; the average date of the first killing frost in autumn was October 12. The latest date of a killing frost in spring was May 26, while the earliest date for a killing frost in the fall was September 22. Beginning in 1895 and ending in 1930, with eight years omitted, the shortest growing season was in 1925 with 139 days; the longest was in 1929 with 201 days.

Precipitation records, beginning in 1894 and including 1930, showed an average of 45.95 inches, giving the driest year as 1904 with 26.66 inches, and 1925 with only 29.98 inches. Four other years have moisture recordings within the thirties; all others are

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<sup>8</sup>All records of weather within this thesis were taken from a Climatic Summary of the United States, Section 95, compiled by the United States Weather Bureau. The station furnishing the data given herein is located in Waynesville, which has an elevation of 2,756 feet and which has surrounding mountains of 4,000 to 6,000 feet in elevation. The records began in the latter part of the past century, say about 1894, and continued to the early nineteen-thirties.





in the forties or fifties. The wettest year, 1901, had 59.84, while 1920 assumed second position with 57.35 inches.

Average precipitation for the winter months is a fraction over 4.01 inches; for spring a little over 4.24 inches, for summer slightly more than 4.37 inches; and for fall a fraction less than 2.89 inches. The wettest month was in March of 1899 with 13.01 inches. Only six other times in the entire period from 1894 to 1930 has any one month had as much as ten inches of moisture. The driest month was October of 1904 when less than one one-hundredths fell, and November of 1909 takes second position with one-tenth of an inch precipitation. The annual snowfall for this period was 12.5 inches. The monthly average shows February leading with 3.9 inches, January second with 3.7 inches, and December third with 1.8 inches.

The above scientific data showed that there have been no continuous years of low or high records. Five years of records taken any place from the beginning to the end will average approximately the annual average over the entire period of recording.

Thus, having a splendid rainfall, a fertile soil, and a mild climate, Haywood County has the requisites conducive to an excellent growth of plant and animal life. And this is a land of forests, pastures, and fields. B. W. Wells referred to this section of the state in the following words:

Judged by every standard this is the greatest of all our plant communities. In size of plants, in number of species, in extent of area, in diversity of structure within the community, in its contribution to gardening, the great upland forest of both broad-leaved and coniferous trees, with its host of subordinate plants, consti-





tutes our richest vegetational heritage.<sup>9</sup>

Probably the most valuable trees of Haywood County are the oaks, the chestnuts, the poplars, the balsams, and the spruces. These varieties, with a mixture of others, cover a large per cent of this section; and, although much lumbering has been carried on in recent years, the county has several hundred acres covered with forests. Large areas have been cut during the present century, but a splendid holding soil with an abundant rainfall soon caused a new growth of timber to take the place of the old. No part of the county, high or low, fails to abound in some or all of the varieties of valuable trees found in western North Carolina.

Mr. Wells, in a recent publication, furnished a vivid description of the luxuriant growth of the larger type flora within this region. He wrote as follows:

In the higher mountains above three thousand feet and ranging up to five thousand and in places to five thousand five hundred feet, we find the great oak-chestnut forest. The chestnut, formerly the dominant tree, is now disappearing under the insidious attack of a fungous parasite, but its place will be rapidly taken by the oaks and other trees . . . .

The commoner oaks are the white, northern red, chestnut, and black. In addition to the oaks, and especially abundant on the cool north slopes and in coves, are the hemlock . . . cucumber tree, tulip poplar, beech, and sugar maple. At higher altitudes, the buckeye, sweet and yellow birch, with beech and chestnut in dwarfed form, occur. The great rhododendron . . . is also common . . . .<sup>10</sup>

On the summit of the highest mountains beech groves and repressed northern red oak are sometimes found. Also on these

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<sup>9</sup>B. W. Wells, The Natural Gardens of North Carolina, p.157.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., pp.166-168.





places of thirty below zero and only three months of growing season, the balsams and spruces are found.

A picture of the forests of this section would not be complete without recognizing the shrubs, ferns, mosses, vines, and flowers which live here in riotous profusion. It is a natural growth such as is found within this county that prompts many newspaper articles. Without much effort are found words like these: "Vines of many kinds and of luxuriant growth add to the beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Among these are the Virginia Creeper, the Virgin's Bower or Traveler's Joy, the Leather Flower, the Ground Nut, the Dutchman's Pipe, the Passion Flower or Maypop, the Dodder or Love vine, the Hisspid Green Brier, the Wild Grape, and the Monks-hood."<sup>11</sup>

Speaking of the Park, of course, means a reference to parts of Haywood County found within that area and to flora of the same type outside. The following is written concerning flora during winter: "Fresh and beautiful amid dead, dry grass and leaves gleam the daisy, thistle, aster, mulleins . . . dandelion, teasel, sheep sorrel . . . and many others."<sup>12</sup>

In describing the flora on top of one of Haywood County's mountains, Doctor H. L. Bloomquist, of Duke University, mentioned the spruce, balsam, purple rhododendron, moss, wood fern, red elder berry, mountain cranberry, orchids, the mountain ash, and northern clintonia. Doctor Bloomquist, probably the leading authority on

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<sup>11</sup>The Asheville Citizen-Times, September 10, 1933.

<sup>12</sup>The Asheville Citizen-Times, February 24, 1922.





plant life within Haywood County, stated that he had found one hundred and seventy-five kinds of ferns in the Great Smoky Mountains, three kinds of rhododendron, and three kinds of azalias.<sup>13</sup>

Amid the abundant growth of flora within Haywood County is found a wild life that is both numerous and interesting. The gray and red fox are plentiful, having grown in numbers during the last few years under the protection of the national forests and parks. These small animals are especially appreciated by the numerous fox-hunters who own some of the best foxhounds to be found in the Appalachian regions of the south. The bear is not unusual to Haywood County since within its boundary some of these ferocious animals are killed each year. Deer hunting is another favorite sport, and a limited supply of deer occupies this county. Rabbit, squirrel, opossum, and quail, besides many other small animals and birds, complete the families of an abundant wild life found here.

Federal, state, and local governments, through the cooperation of citizens, are attempting to increase plant and animal life within this region of the state. Game wardens are extremely alert, and the average citizen is beginning to realize the damage done by forest fires and poor sportsmen. The national park and forest of this region have preserved the flora and fauna of Haywood County for the benefit of the present and following generations.

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<sup>13</sup>Asheville Citizen-Times, August 12, 1934.



### Chapter III

#### CHEROKEE INDIANS

The Cherokees possessed more power and had reached a higher degree of civilization than any other American Indians. Their possessions extended from the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains almost to the Mississippi River and from northern Kentucky to central Alabama and Georgia. There were no fixed boundaries, and the Cherokee warriors hardly had a momentary truce with Indian neighbors who claimed valuable hunting ground on every side. However, these surrounding enemies, powerful though they were, found no weakness in the Cherokee defense. In fact, by their defeat of the Creeks and expulsion of the Shawano, the Cherokee tribe made good the claim to all lands from upper Georgia to the Ohio River. They were the original mountaineers from the South holding the territory between the English settlements on the Atlantic Coast and the French and Spanish possessions along the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. This holding of the Cherokees contained fifty-three thousand square miles, almost half of which was in Tennessee, with a small part in western North Carolina, and the remainder was about equally divided between Alabama and Georgia.

In this land of fertile plains and lofty mountains the Cherokee Indians made their homes. Writers term this territory the most picturesque east of the Mississippi. It is a land of abundant forests, typical mountain streams, and beautiful flowers and birds. The climate is healthful, the winters are mild. In fact, the territory occupied by the Cherokee Indians possesses these and other characteristics appreciated by the aborigines who were deeply





attached to "the land of their forefathers". Love for ancestral homes was strong and sincere, having its roots deep in the past of domestic and religious institutions. The Cherokees had dwelt long in this section and their legends were associated with the rocks, the trees, the peaks, and the streams.

In this "land of their forefathers" defense was not difficult so long as it was Indian against Indian, but the Cherokee Nation could not long withstand the relentless drive of the pioneers from beyond the Atlantic. The first step in the funeral march of the Cherokees was taken in the middle of the sixteenth century when De Soto passed into land of the "Cheraqui". Before the end of the seventeenth century the adjoining English colonies began trading with the Cherokees. By granting a small tract of land in 1721 these Indians entered into their first treaty with the white men. From this time, year after year, under one pretext or another, the red men have been shorn of the land of their ancestors until they have been confined to a very small reservation in the western part of North Carolina.

After 1785 the national government took definite charge of the affairs with the Cherokee. During the term of President Jefferson congress appropriated fifteen thousand dollars to remove the Cherokees to Louisiana territory. This removal question created a divided stand in the Cherokee ranks. Some wished to go; others did not. Attention of the reader is directed to a hardy group of men who defied all efforts of removal, clinging to their ancestral homes and forming in Western North Carolina the Cherokee Nation of the East. The condition of the Cherokee when the federal government took charge of them in 1785 is well described by Mooney and Ramsey





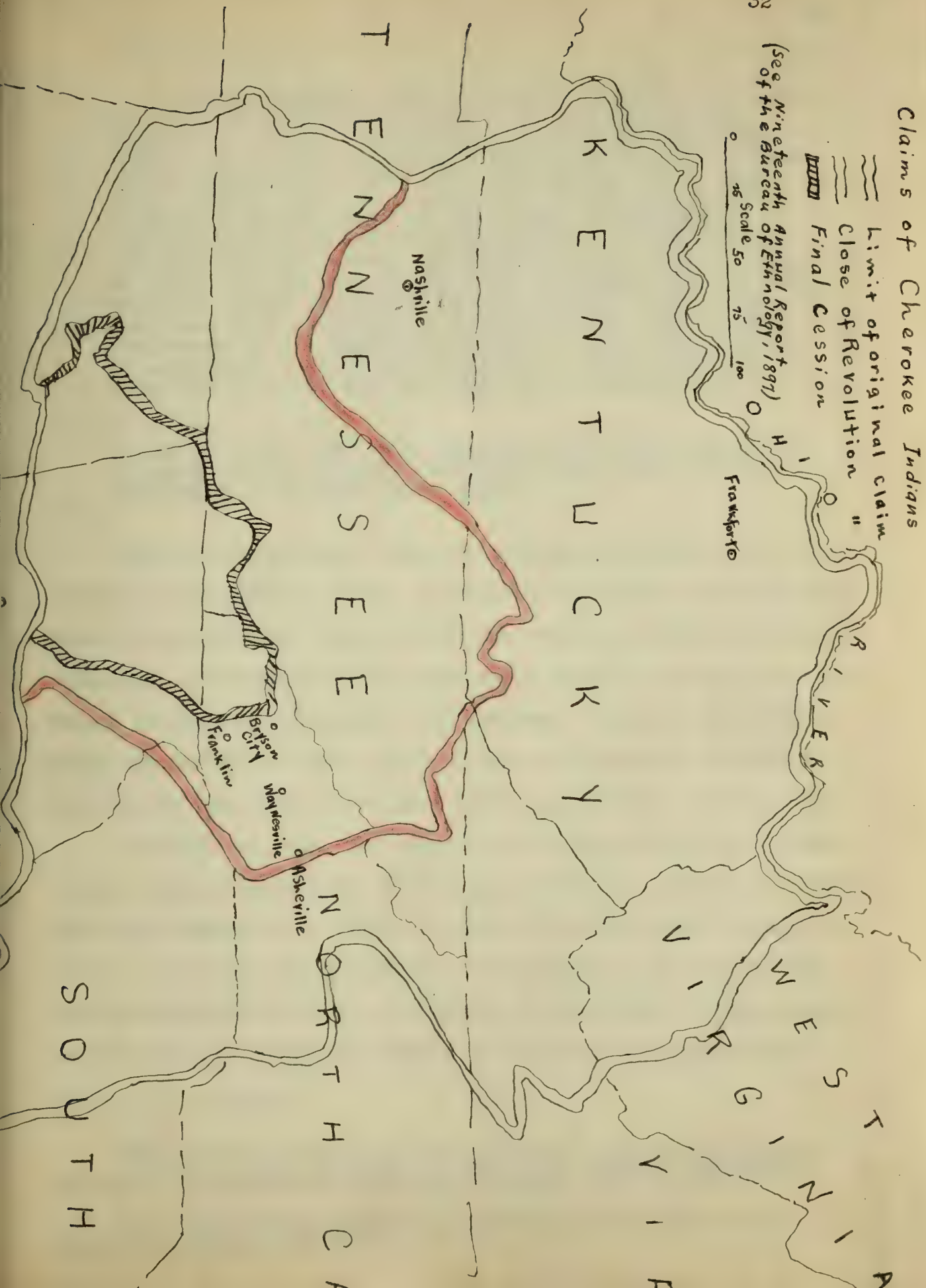
# Claims of Cherokee Indians

- ~~~~~ Limit of original claim
- ===== Close of Revolution
- Final Cession

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Scale

(See Nineteenth Annual Report, 1897)  
of the Bureau of Ethnology



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By the preliminary treaty of Paris, November 30, 1782, the long Revolutionary struggle for independence was brought to a close, and the Cherokee, as well as other tribes, seeing the hopelessness of continuing the contest alone, began to sue for peace. By seven years of constant warfare they had been reduced to the lowest depth of misery, almost indeed to the verge of extinction. Over and over again their towns had been laid in ashes and their fields wasted. To complete their brimming cup of misery the smallpox again broke out among them in 1783. Deprived of the assistance of their former white allies they were left to their own cruel fate, the last feeble resistance of the mountain warriors to the advancing tide of settlement came to an end with the burning of Cowee town, and their way was left open to an arrangement.<sup>1</sup>

*P* In the same year the North Carolina legislature appointed an agent for the Cherokee and made regulations for the government of traders among them.<sup>2</sup>

From the first treaty with the federal government until the removal - from 1785 to 1838 - is another period of wars, and their result, destruction. Not only did the whites, contrary to treaty agreement, continue to settle upon their lands, but they also continued to send forces against the Indians. Those in authority among the Cherokees asked for fair treatment from the national government; but still their land holdings continued to decrease.

In the first peace and boundary delimitation treaty between the new government and the Cherokees, concluded at Hopewell, South Carolina, November 28, 1785, the United States pledged herself to protect and favor the Cherokees. The Cherokees promised to set free all prisoners, white and black, and the United States agreed to set free all Indian prisoners. New boundaries granted more

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<sup>1</sup>James Mooney, "Myths of the Cherokee", Nineteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Part I, pp.60f.

<sup>2</sup>J. G. M. Ramsey, Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century, p.276.





territory to white settlers in Western North Carolina, thus depriving the Indians of territory they had been occupying. The United States definitely withheld protection to any whites who settled on Indian territory. The Indians agreed to deliver law violators to the United States for punishment while United States lawbreakers were to be punished in the presence of the Cherokees. The United States had sole power over the Indians' trade relations. In case the Cherokee became cognizant of intended malice to the United States by other Indians they were to relate the rumors immediately to United States officials.<sup>3</sup>

However, this treaty proved unsatisfactory to the Indians and the settlers. The former claimed that the whites had failed to move from the valleys of the French Broad and Holston Rivers, and were, furthermore, encroaching farther into Indian territory. The whites were dissatisfied because the commissioners had not claimed more land, and also because they believed that the rights of the states had been assumed by the federal government. A revised treaty was concluded July 2, 1791, and proclaimed February 7, 1792.<sup>4</sup>

The conference for the second treaty was held at the bank of the Holston River near the mouth of the French Broad. Aside from reiterating some former agreements, more land was added to the United States' possessions at the expense of the Cherokees. The United States received all or part of sixteen counties in Tennessee, together with a portion of North Carolina lying principally west of

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<sup>3</sup>United States Statutes at Large, vii, 18.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p.39.





of the French Broad River.

Since none of the treaties proved satisfactory attempts to remove the Indians from "the land of their fathers" followed. Nothing surpasses the incident in grief and pathos and this constitutes one of the saddest stories in the pages of American history. The darkest blot, according to a late historian, on the escutcheon of American history is the removal of the Cherokee Indians from their ancestral homes. The exile of the Acadians was a pleasure trip in comparison to the horrible suffering that the soldiers of General Scott placed upon the red men, their wives, and their children as they were herded into the stockades in preparation for the long trip to the West. Often the Indians would pray, feed their stock and chickens for the last time, and quietly submit to their doom. Behind the footsteps of the soldiers followed the whites of nearby territory to lay hold on what the Indians left.

Lawman, in his Letters from the Alleghany Mountains, has this to say in regard to Indian removal:

How reluctant the Indians were to leave this beautiful land may be shown by the fact that a number of women destroyed themselves within this very fort rather than be driven beyond the Mississippi. And a gentleman who saw the Indians, when they were removed, tells me that they were actually driven along the road like a herd of wild and unruly animals, a number of them having been shot down in the vicinity of this place. All these things may have been published, but I have never seen them in print; and I now put them in print with the view of shaming out heartless and cruel Government for its unnatural conduct in times past . . . . In proof of the opinion that they might have lived here in honor and comfort, it may be mentioned that the few Cherokees who were permitted to remain in Carolina, are now considered the most polite and inoffensive of the entire population; and the United States District Attorney residing in Cherokee County informs me, that of five hundred individuals whom he has had to prosecute within the last five years, only one of





them was an Indian, and he was led into his difficulty by a drunken white man.<sup>5</sup>

W. C. Allen clearly states the attitude of the Indians in the following remarks:

General Winfield Scott, afterward distinguished in the Mexican war, was in command of the army and was charged with the duty of transplanting the Indian bands. He was very successful in persuading the Indians of Northern Georgia and Eastern Tennessee to consent to go to the new territory allotted to them.

As soon, however, as he came into Haywood County he struck a different proposition. The Indians would not listen to the suggestion of their removal. They loved their native hills and would not give them up. They, therefore, flatly refused to be transported. General Scott then ordered a removal by force; but the Indians hid in the mountain glens and coves. The soldiers could not find them and the undertaking was greatly delayed. Finally General Scott gave up the attempt and recommended to the government that a reservation for the Cherokee be secured in the mountains of western North Carolina and the tribe be allowed to dwell there. This recommendation was acted upon and a reservation of many thousand acres of land was purchased in the western part of Haywood County, and the Eastern Band of the Cherokees were settled upon it, and are now living there.<sup>6</sup>

The following letter will suffice to show the Indians' attitude toward removal. This is probably the work of John Ross, the outstanding leader of the Cherokee Nation.

We, the undersigned delegation from the Cherokee Nation, now on a visit at the seat of Government of the United States, on matters of vast import . . . humble beg leave to submit before your honorable body a few remarks, which we are bound . . . to make. . . . It is with unfeigned regret and pain we discover the sentiments which are expressed by the Governor of Georgia . . . . We cannot but view the design of those letters as an attempt, bordering on a hostile disposition towards the Cherokee Nation, to arrest from them, by arbitrary means,

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<sup>5</sup>Charles Lanman, Letters from the Alleghany Mountains, pp.61f.

<sup>6</sup>W. C. Allen, Centennial of Haywood County and its County Seat, Waynesville, North Carolina, p.24.





their just rights and liberties, the security of which is solemnly guaranteed to them by these United States. . . . that all the sentiments expressed in relation to the disposition and determination of the Nation never again to cede another foot of land, are positively the production and voice of the Nation . . . is expressive of the true sentiments of the Nation . . . and that not one word of which has been put into our mouth by a white man. . . . The Cherokees are informed on the situation of the country west of the Mississippi river; and there is not a spot out of the limits of any of the State or Territories thereof and within the limits of the United States that they would ever consent to inhabit, because they have unequivocally determined never again to pursue the chase, as heretofore, or to engage in wars, unless by the special call of the Government. . . . and as a removal to the barren waste bordering on the Rocky mountains, where water and timber are scarcely to be seen, could be for no other object or inducement than to pursue the buffalo, and to wage war with the uncultivated Indians in that hemisphere. . . . The Cherokees have turned their attention to the pursuits of the civilized man; agriculture, manufacturing, and the mechanic arts, and education, and all in successful operation in the Nation at this time; and, whilst the Cherokees are peacefully endeavoring to enjoy the blessings of civilization and Christianity on the soil of their rightful inheritance; and whilst the exertions and labors of various religious societies of these United States successfully engaged in promulgating to them the word of truth and life . . . they are threatened with removal and extinction. . . . We appeal to the magnanimity of the American Congress for justice, and the protection of the rights, liberties, and lives of the Cherokee people. We claim it from the United States, by the strongest obligation which imposes it upon them - by treaties; and we expect it from them under that memorable declaration, 'that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'

We, therefore, in behalf and under the highest authority of the Cherokee Nation, have hereunto affixed our signatures, at Washington City, this 15th day of April, 1824.

Jno. Ross  
Geo. Lowrey  
Major Ridge, his x mark  
Elijah Hicks<sup>7</sup>





During the futile attempt of removal Old Charley, also known as Old Man Teali, killed his guards and escaped into the mountains. After being convinced that a truce would be granted his people, the Indian voluntarily gave himself to General Scott, and, before being shot, is reported to have made the following speech:

And it is by your hands, Muchella, that I am to die! We have been brothers together; but Muchella has promised to be the white man's friend, and he must do his duty, and poor Charley is to suffer because he loved his country. O, Muchella! if the Cherokee people now beyond the Mississippi carried my heart in their bosoms, they never would have left their beautiful native land - their own mountain land. I am not afraid to die; O, no, I want to die, for my heart is very heavy, heavier than lead. But, Muchella, there is one favor that I would ask at your hands. You know that I had a little boy, who was lost among the mountains. I want you to find that boy, if he is not dead, and tell him that the last words of his father were that he must never go beyond the Father of Waters, but die in the land of his birth. It is sweet to die in one's own country, and to be buried by the margin of one's native stream.<sup>8</sup>

The Cherokees were not alone in their opposition to removal. The whites, and many influential ones, were not in favor of force being used to remove the Indians. Quoting from W. W. Stringfield:

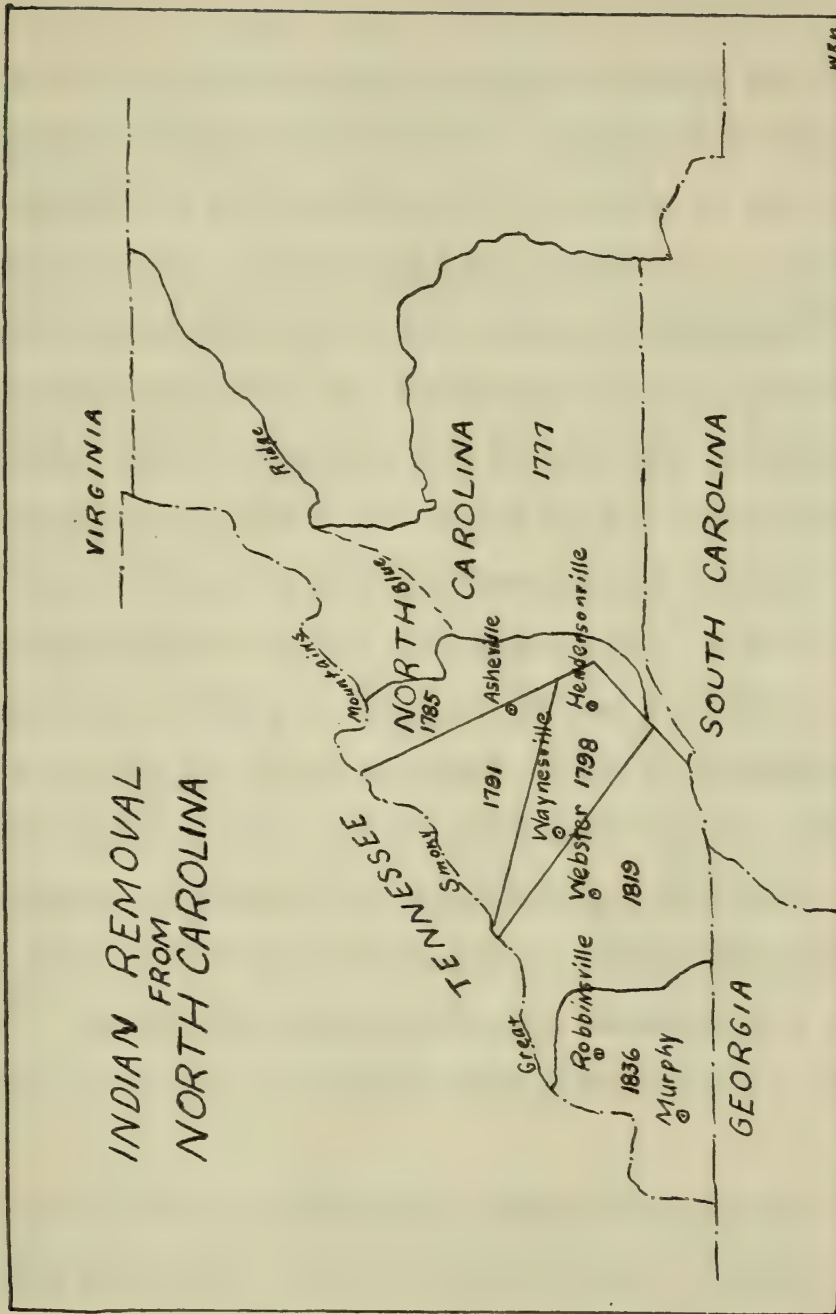
The Federal authorities (Jackson was President) hesitated and delayed in the matter, Jackson, no doubt, remembering the valiant service of these same Cherokees at the 'Horse-shoe'. His conscience pricked him sorely. A burning, stinging, acrimonious debate rang through both halls of Congress. Democrats for the bogus treaty, Whigs against it - the latter led by Clay, Webster, Everett, Wise and Davy Crockett. President Van Buren coming in, was disposed to give more time, but Governor Gilmer of Georgia was relentless. The Cherokee must go; and the majority did go. But how? Seventeen thousand were forced to move, two thousand left voluntarily.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Lanman, op. cit., p.113.

<sup>9</sup>W. W. Stringfield, The North Carolina Cherokee Indians, p.17.





Copy from W. K. Boyd's History of North Carolina, p. 78.



AMERICAN

AMERICAN  
MORRIS  
AMERICAN

AMERICAN

AMERICAN

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AMERICAN

AMERICAN

AMERICAN

AMERICAN

But it was written that the Indians must go, and as stated previously they did move or were moved. That is they all moved beyond the Father of Waters except those who maintained a home in what was a part of Haywood County in Western North Carolina.

The Cherokee Indians could not be removed from this section. "Anyone who thinks he can find an Indian hiding in the wilds of Western North Carolina has not seen the country. He might as well spend his time hunting for the lost tribes of Israel."<sup>10</sup>

General Scott realized the conditions in the mountain fastness; so after Old Man Tsali (Charley) had killed some guards, the General offered a compromise by which the Chief of the Cherokees, Utsali or Lichen, and one thousand of his followers might remain in North Carolina provided Old Man Tsali was delivered. In 1846 their rights were recognized by treaty, an annual allowance of three dollars and twenty cents per capita being allowed. Colonel William H. Thomas was appointed Indian Agent, and he purchased for the Indians Bird-town, Paint-town, Wolf-town, Yellow-hill, and Big Cove. In these the Indians lived a civilized life with a constitutional form of government.<sup>11</sup> Thus, the Cherokee Indians maintained a foothold in Western North Carolina, a position they have not lost to the present time.

Lanman wrote from Qualla Town, North Carolina, May, 1848, thirteen years following the New Echota Treaty: "Qualla Town is a name applied to a tract of seventy-two thousand acres of land, in Haywood County, which is occupied by about eight hundred Cherokee

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<sup>10</sup>Margaret W. Morley, The Carolina Mountains, p.234.

<sup>11</sup>S. K. Boyd, History of North Carolina, Vol. 11, pp.77ff.





Indians . . . . Their district is mountainous from one extremity to the other, and watered by a number of beautiful streams, which abound in fish; the valleys and slopes are quite fertile, and lower mountains are well adapted to grazing, and at the same time are heavily timbered and supplied with every variety of game."<sup>12</sup>

Again quoting from Larman:

With regard to the extent of their civilization and their existing manner of life, the following may be looked upon as a comprehensive summary: About three-fourths of the entire population can read in their own language, and, though the majority of them understand English, a very few can speak the language. They practice, to a considerable extent, the science of agriculture, and have acquired such knowledge of the mechanic arts as answers them for all ordinary purposes, for they manufacture their own clothing, their own ploughs, and other farming utensils, their own axes, and even their own guns. Their women are no longer treated as slaves, but as equals; the men labor in the fields, and their wives are devoted entirely to household employments. They keep the same domestic animals that are kept by their white neighbors, and cultivate all the common grains of the country. They are probably as temperate as any other class of people on the face of the earth, honest in their business intercourse, moral in their thoughts, words, and deeds, and distinguished for their faithfulness in performing the duties of religion. They are chiefly Methodists and Baptists, and have regular ordained ministers, who preach to them on every Sabbath, and they have also abandoned many of their more senseless superstitions. They have their own courts and try their criminals by a regular jury. Their judges and lawyers are chosen among themselves. They keep in order the public roads leading through their settlement. By a law of the State they have the right to vote, but seldom exercise that right, as they do not like the idea of being identified with any of the political parties. Excepting on festive days, they dress after the manner of the white man, but far more picturesquely. They live in small log houses of their own construction, and have everything they need or desire in the way of food. They are, in fact, the happiest community that I have yet met within this Southern country, and no candid man can visit them without being convinced of the wickedness and foolishness of that policy of the Government which has always acted upon the opinion that the red man could not be educated into a reasonable being.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Larman, op. cit., p.93

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., pp.94-96.





Soon after the Indians received their reservation it was taken from Haywood County due to the formation of other western counties. The boundaries of land belonging to the Cherokees and that of this county join. The reservation is now included in the counties of Jackson, Swain, and Graham. It appears that the Indians allowed to remain in Western North Carolina made considerable progress and the race has steadily improved since that time. In 1903 W. W. Stringfield wrote the following concerning more recent history of the Cherokees:

For the last eighteen or twenty years the Federal Government has not been remiss in its efforts to train and educate the younger Indians in the necessary and useful arts of living. A Training and Industrial School, with extensive buildings, shops, gardens, etc., is in full operation . . . .

Mr. Stringfield continued by saying that "the Indians are now fairly happy and contented, and with each returning year are better able to support themselves".<sup>14</sup>

Writing in 1935 W. C. Allen says: "Throughout the period of the early settlement of Haywood County and until the present the most friendly relations have existed between the white people and the Cherokees."<sup>15</sup>

Mr. Arthur wrote in 1914:

There are at this time in Swain, Jackson, Cherokee and Graham Counties, North Carolina, a considerable number of Cherokee Indians. The total population of the Cherokees as given by the superintendent in charge for 1911 is 2,015.

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<sup>14</sup>Stringfield, op. cit., pp. 23f.

<sup>15</sup>Allen, Annals, p.43.





The enrollment in the different schools is as follows:

Cherokee Indian School (Boarding) -----	175
Birdtown Day School -----	45
Snow Bird Gap (Day School) -----	34
Little Snow Bird -----	20

A considerable number attend public school where the degree of Indian blood is small. The non-reservation boarding schools provided by the Federal Government also have a number of pupils from this reservation.<sup>16</sup>

Quoting from a report of the Board of Indian Commissioners to the Secretary of the Interior for the year 1927:

The band of Eastern Cherokee Indians residing in North Carolina is now passing through one of the most important periods in its unique history. The Board of Indian Commissioners has shown an interest in the affairs of these Indians for a number of years and urged the passage of legislation to change the peculiar status of this part of the tribe which refused to move to the West with the rest of the Cherokee Nation in 1838. By the act of June 4, 1924, Congress authorized the winding up of the affairs of the band, providing for a final enrollment of its members, an allotment of the community lands, and the individualization of the rest of the tribal estate.

.....  
 . . . The country is heavily wooded; it is estimated that only 3 per cent of the area is cleared. The small tracts of land available for cultivation are narrow strips along the wider portions of the valleys. Because of its scarcity fair agricultural land is highly priced considering the value of crops it will produce.

The Indian lands of the agency total 63,160 acres. The reservation proper, the Qualla Boundary, comprising 50,813 acres, is located in Swain and Jackson Counties... . There are about 50 separate and smaller tracts scattered about the mountains, which have an area of 12,342 acres. Some of these land parcels are as far as 50 to 70 miles from the headquarters at Cherokee, and, because of the lack of adequate roads in the more remote parts of this rough country, many of them are very difficult to look after.

.....  
 \* The Eastern Cherokees have always been a self-support-

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<sup>16</sup> John Preston Arthur, Western North Carolina, a History, p.596.





ing, independent people. When white men first saw them they lived in permanent huts or camps in the mountain valleys . . . .

Today the Indian still clings to his mountain home. His house is a rude, unpainted hut, sometimes of log construction, of two to four rooms, with a stone fireplace built in one end. The furniture of the home is mostly of a crude variety, much of it often being made on the premises. A cookstove, a dining table, some chairs, and a bed or so constitute the family possessions. The housewife usually keeps her cabin clean and neat, but some of the dwellings are not in the best sanitary condition.

Many of the Cherokee homes are perched on the steep hillsides overlooking the valleys below. A rude barn and a shed or two are to be seen a short distance away. At every house there is a small but well-fenced garden, where the family obtains its supply of beans, potatoes, onions, and other vegetables. A small field of 3 to 5 acres is planted to corn or other crops. A patch of an acre or so is fenced as a pasture for the family cow.

The Cherokee farmer raises several varieties of corn, one is used for hominy and several others are ground into meal. Corn bread, hominy, beans, and potatoes are important articles of the Indian diet. Many families raise a few hogs . . . . The housewife churns butter, cans fruit for winter use, and obtains honey from hives kept near by. Chickens are seen at every farmyard.

. . . . .  
About 300 families earn the major portion of their living by farming. It has been estimated that there are but 15,000 acres of agricultural lands, and of this amount 9,000 acres are devoted to grazing.

Fruit raising offers one of the best means of profit among the Cherokees. . . .

. . . . .  
. . . . Besides farming the family adds to its income from other sources. The women weave baskets, make pottery, and do some bead work. This handicraft brings to the reservation \$10,000 each year. . . . Some of the men perform day labor, working at the lumber mills, as section hands on the railroad, and at other jobs.

. . . There are around 35,000,000 board feet of timber, valued at nearly \$2,000,000 . . . . Some Indians obtain permits from the agency to cut timber, which they transport to points on the railroad for sale . . . .

The report of the last school year showed there were 573 Cherokee Indian children eligible for school attendance. Of this number, 515 were reported as attending some school . . . .<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Report of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of Interior for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1927,  
pp. 32-34.





The report continues to show that the day for hunting as a livelihood is something of the past; that the Indian lives on his small farm much as the white man does and makes his small purchases from the country store. As a rule, according to the above report, the Indians are law-abiding and worthy people. They stay within their own communities, devoting most of their time to obtaining a meager living by farming. The report continues by stating that health conditions are not the best; that tuberculosis and other diseases are prevalent.

Finally a report is presented of the conditions as found among the Cherokees in 1955. This report was taken from a local newspaper and written by a person having personal contact with the Indians.

Within the boundaries of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, adding color and romance, are more than 3,000 Indians of the Great Cherokee Tribe.

\* \* \* \* \*

The status of the Cherokee as a nation is somewhat anomalous. Their constitution is still operative and under it they have their own lawmaking body, their courts and penalties. Their criminal statutes are a simplified form of common law and there has been no great need of civil statutes among them since they have been without individual property except in their personal estates. They are also subject to the laws of the state and are amenable to the courts of the counties in which they live. Their lands are taxed as are other lands in the county.<sup>18</sup> They have voting privileges, but are not keen on exercising them. They live largely apart from the community in which their reservation and school system is so large a part.

Cherokee is the center of their nation. Most of the pupils board in the school maintained there. The children are taught practically the same courses that are given in the high schools in the state, with more emphasis

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<sup>18</sup>The Indians have the privilege of voting and evidently it has been ruled that the lands are subject to taxation.





on the manual and agricultural training features.

Many of the traditions of the Cherokees remain, though outwardly their customs are much changed by time and contact with other people. Most of them speak their own language and some of the older ones are unable to speak English. Two things have been brought down through the generations with them - their native sport of Indian ball which the men have kept intact and the weaving of baskets and beaded ornaments and making of pottery by the women. They are finding these to possess a growing commercial value. Thousands of persons in the state and from a distance go to Cherokee in the fall to attend the Fair and witness the 'Ball games' and see the interesting exhibits of baskets, beads and pottery.

The game of Indian ball has been evolved into hockey by the white man and is the most picturesque of sport to be seen in America today. It is not only played at the school, but among the Indians at their homes in the mountains. The annual championship among the townships is one of the most sporting events to see in North Carolina. One feature is the betting in which the women enter with as much enthusiasm as the men.

. . . In the Park they will have a permanency and no more will they be asked to move beyond 'the Great Father of Waters'. They are being encouraged to hold fast to their traditions and their relation in the Park will be such that it will be an asset to be counted as a member of the Great tribe of Cherokees.<sup>19</sup>

The above report, probably written by W. C. Allen, is a very accurate account of conditions in Cherokee life of Western North Carolina today. It appears even at this early date that plans are under way to remove them from all lands inside this area.

It seems that the full-blooded Cherokee looks into the future, sighs, and exclaims: "What is the use?" It appears that the Indian of today is melancholy, considering himself a person of a defeated race whose summers are declining, and whose life has arrived at the end of the trail. Those who are called Indians may be on the increase, but those who have only the Cherokee blood seem to be declining.

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<sup>19</sup>The Waynesville Mountaineer, April 25, 1935.





Some Indians still travel from the reservation to nearby towns, walking one behind the other and usually carrying several baskets wrapped in a large white cloth, or sheet. At times they will spend the night among their white friends, and often the Indians stop at the same homes for something to eat. Their workmanship, usually consisting solely of baskets, being sold, the Indians may make purchases within the towns before beginning their long walk to homes on the reservation.

Cherokee athletes frequently enter into competition with the whites, playing baseball, basketball, and football. In this way they display average ability and splendid sportsmanship.

A journey into Indian country will soon destroy any romantic picture that the traveler may have had in regard to the beauty of the Cherokees. The men are not handsome and the women are far from beautiful. The Indian maidens who posed for artists were not Cherokees of the East. However, the visitor will still find a friendly people who continue to be skillful with the bow and arrow, maintain their Indian dances, ball games, and picturesqueness in dress and home life.

To recapitulate: It appears that white men molested the Cherokees as early as the sixteenth century; that the Indians of Western North Carolina were, for the most part, confined to land west of Asheville as early as 1701; that they successfully resisted removal; and that the most friendly relations have existed between these people and the whites. It appears that the majority of Cherokees were friendly to the South during the Civil war.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>The eleventh census shows fourteen surviving Union soldiers and fifty survivors who were in the Confederate service from Western North Carolina.



According to best references it appears that the Cherokees of Western North Carolina owe their existence as a nation to Colonel W. H. Thomas of Haywood County. Also, it seems that these people, under the direction of the federal government, are gradually assuming the ways of white people, and that they are making an ordinary livelihood on the reservation, sending children to school to prepare them for the ways of modern life. However, and in conclusion, the future of the Cherokee Indians inevitably depends upon their own strength. If they are strong enough to keep step with future progress, they will live; if not, the red men now living on a reservation in Western North Carolina will pass into complete oblivion with other races who could not survive the killing pace set by the onward march of civilization.





## Chapter IV

### POPULATION OF HAYWOOD COUNTY

Since records are scarce and unreliable it is very difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the racial elements found within Haywood County. What the inhabitants report in regard to their ancestry cannot be considered too seriously; what their names may imply has very little meaning as they have been changed so often. It is a fact, however, that these people, for the most part, are native born, being descendants of pioneers who moved here in the early stages of the county's development.

It appears that immigrants came here by the way of Piedmont North Carolina where a general mixture of people had met coming in from the East, North, and South. Campbell has the following to say in regard to this meeting place of early peoples:

It will be recalled that the third reservoir, that in the Piedmont of the Carolinas, was fed from a number of sources, the main stream flowing from Pennsylvania through the Valley of Virginia, while lesser streams issued from the ports of Charleston and Wilmington. The ethnic strains in these various tides were the same, save that in the southern currents there was a greater representation, relatively, of Highland Scotch and French Huguenots. The preponderant races early on this frontier then, were, as might be expected, Scotch-Irish and German, and if tradition and historical estimates may be trusted, here too, the Scotch-Irish were in the ascendancy. There is likelihood, however, that there was a greater admixture of races in this than in the other reservoirs. In addition to the French Huguenot and Scotch Highlander elements, the reservoir probably contained proportionately more English, who had worked their way from the Virginia Tidewater through the Virginia Piedmont and lowland North Carolina to the Carolina Piedmont. Hunters, traders, and cattle raisers had begun this movement in early times, and even before the middle of the eighteenth century there were scattered settlers among the Carolina foothills, drawn by the fine pastures, clear streams, and cooler





climate . . . . Here, as in Pennsylvania and Virginia, the frontier settlements were for some time distinct from the older eastern settlements in race, religion, and democratic tendencies.<sup>1</sup>

Between the first and the beginning of the last quarter of the eighteenth century many thousand Germans, Ulster Scotch or Scotch-Irish, and other immigrants came to Philadelphia, a city of a colony which was fairly well filled. These people moved on to the frontier, and in about three generations, or less, were ready to push over the Blue Ridge from the foothills of North Carolina. Bishop Spangenburg wrote in 1753: "After having traversed the length and breadth of North Carolina, we have ascertained that towards the western mountains there are plenty of people who have come from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and even from New England."<sup>2</sup>

Referring to the mountain people as sons of Yankee sires, Theodore Roosevelt stated that as early as 1730 three streams of white people began converging towards the mountains, mostly from Philadelphia, with many from Charleston, South Carolina.<sup>3</sup> "On the 15th. of Feb. 1751, Gov. Johnston wrote to the London Board of Trade that inhabitants were flocking into North Carolina, mostly from Pennsylvania . . . many thousand having arrived, most of whom had settled in the West. . . ."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>John C. Campbell, The Southern Highlander and His Homeland, pp. 57f.

<sup>2</sup>Bishop Spangenburg in Colonial Records of North Carolina, 1111, 1311-14.

<sup>3</sup>Theodore Roosevelt in Colonial Records of North Carolina, 1, 137.

<sup>4</sup>Colonial Records of North Carolina, 1111, xxi.





In volume eight of Colonial Records the following names appear in German history: Herman, Albrights (Albrechts), Holts, Sharps (Schervs), Graves (Greff), Summers, Cobbs (Kaubs), Vobles, Smiths, Longs, Hauok, Millers, Grimes (Grims), Shulers, Thomas, Fishers, Bernhardtts, Petzer, Conrads, Reinhardtts, Crys, Fingers, Setzers, Summerow, Shufords, Robinsons, and Weidners (Whitner). All of these family names are found in Haywood County today.

"So many of the northerners," according to Margaret W. Morley, "Scotch-Irish and Scotch Highlanders, came to the mountains as to give a dominant note to the character of the mountaineers."<sup>5</sup>

A recent publication by W. C. Allen gave a genealogical register of sixty, or more, Haywood County families. Mr. Allen said, "In Haywood County, there are about one hundred families whose history touches almost every individual whose people have been living in the county for not less than fifty years. The record of these hundred families gives a genealogical register that will endure. Sixty, or more, of these appear in this volume."<sup>6</sup>

In the sixty, or more, families mentioned above the following results are tabulated as accurately as possible from records given: England leads in family origins with fifteen; Scotland is second with ten; Ireland is mentioned as the origin of four of Haywood's leading families; France has three; Holland, Germany, and Wales have two each; and Belgium has one.

In their sojourn in other states, Virginia is far in the lead with nineteen; Pennsylvania is second with nine; five went first

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<sup>5</sup> Morley, The Carolina Mountains, p. 140.

<sup>6</sup> Allen, Annals, p. 276.





to South Carolina; four went to Georgia; Maryland and Tennessee gave an early home for two of Haywood County's first families; and New Jersey and Alabama furnished one each.

These families seemed to settle in various places in the state from the extreme east to the far west before they finally arrived in Haywood County. Duncombe, with nine families listed as coming there from some other state, leads the counties as one to send people to Haywood. Four families came by the way of Burke. About fourteen other counties are mentioned as being the first place of settlement after these families arrived in North Carolina. Fourteen families are mentioned as settling in either the eastern or peidmont section, later coming to the present boundaries of Haywood. Three families failed to give records beyond this county.

In the same work by Mr. Allen, under a chapter entitled "Pioneers Who Laid the Foundations", special mention is given to eighteen men, and of this number ten were born in Haywood County, one each in Burke, Franklin, and Caldwell Counties, one in Tennessee, three in Virginia, and one in Maryland. In the following chapter, "Patriots Who Assisted in Building the Structure", thirteen men are given special attention, and in this number six were born in Haywood County, one each in Cherokee, Surry, and Wilkes Counties, two in Tennessee, and one each in Mississippi and Texas.<sup>7</sup>

It appears that these records are sufficient to give some indication as to the original home of the people of Haywood County. However, it must be kept clearly in mind that some of this informa-

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<sup>7</sup>Allen, Annals, pp.103-163.





tion is merely from the memories of a few citizens, void of authority, and represents a very small portion of the inhabitants of Haywood County.

It appears today, however, that the English are in the majority, the Scotch-Irish second, with the Germans third, and the French a poor fourth. Also it seems evident that the original settlers of Haywood County have tended to remain in this locality. The families who first obtained land grants are still remembered by numerous people of the same name in the county. Mr. W. D. Smith, County Farm Agent, estimated that ninety percent of the land was possessed by the families of the original owners. Campbell made a study of forty-four different names which appeared on an old land grant of 1796. Some of the land called for is in this county, and thirty-four of the names appearing upon the grant are of large land-holding families still located here.<sup>8</sup>

It is evident that the population of this county, for the most part, is native born. Their ancestry is not clear to the historian, but it is plain that these people are Americans. They may not be the Highlanders of Scotland transplanted; neither may they be so pure in their Anglo-Saxon blood; but, rather, as it appears, there is a mixture, a blend of many, making up a people more influenced by environment than racial stock.

In a character study of the mountaineers it must be kept clearly in mind that there are many types of people in each section. Haywood County has four small towns. Canton is the second town

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<sup>8</sup>Campbell, op. cit., p.66.





in size in North Carolina west of the Blue Ridge. Too, Waynesville, Clyde, and Hazelwood each has its town government, its light and water departments, and its well paved streets. Lake Junaluska is the home of several retired Methodist preachers and the summer home of outstanding men in church affairs. Besides it must be clear to the mind of the reader that along the splendid roads of the county live some of the most prominent farmers of the state. Here are to be found some of the most outstanding, as well as the most prosperous, families of the county. Of course all are mountaineers, but not of the log-cabin type which have so often been characterized in print.

On the other hand, judging from readings and observations, few, if any, falsehoods have been told concerning the mountaineers. False impressions have been created due to a weakness of the reading public who would have the West filled with cowboys and the mountains filled with moonshiners. Take for example Campbell's chapter on "The Rural Highlander at Home" with his yard bare of grass, a snow-ball and rosy-bush, a branch used as a highway, the boy as the favored lord, the woman's place to be in the home, a child "whuped" or "wore out with a hickory", the young man rocked after taking his girl home, a boy being stabbed for courting the wrong girl, an illegitimate child living with the father's family, sleds, oxen, corn-shuckings, fiddlers, and feuds. All of these things may be readily found within the boundaries of Haywood County, together with other characteristics of the mountains and mountaineers made so famous by the popular writer.

John Fiske said, "In its early days North Carolina was simply a portion of Virginia's frontier; and to this wild frontier the shiftless people who could not make a place for themselves in





Virginia society, including many of the 'mean Whites', flocked in large numbers."<sup>9</sup>

Fiske continued by saying that a class of poor people came along with those who fled to escape the penalty of the law. However, according to the same writer, the mountaineer is distinguished more for shiftlessness than for criminality. But it cannot be claimed that the backwardness of the mountaineers is due entirely to heredity since isolation will account for almost any extent of ignorance and backwardness. Furthermore it is not true, according to some authorities, that the highlanders are composed entirely of this shiftless group of people. In regard to this matter Campbell has the following to say:

In view, then, of all the various movements through the mountains, and of the fact that the accessible valley regions were early occupied, it seems reasonable to suppose that some journeying through the mountains in the later migrations, passed by many routes and trails into the less accessible valleys of the mountain-ridge section. That there should be men of inferior stamina and ability among them would seem inevitable; but it can by no means be claimed that as a whole the later settlers were inferior. . . . All classes were in motion . . . .<sup>10</sup>

Also there are many people within Haywood County who are native-born inhabitants of urban or valley residence and they do not regard themselves as mountain people. Of course they are not of the "poor mountain type" struggling for a bare existence without training and a certain amount of culture; nevertheless, the citizens of Haywood County are primarily mountaineers, possessing the good and poor traits which characterize these people.

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<sup>9</sup>John Fiske, Old Virginia and Her Neighbors, II, 311.

<sup>10</sup>Campbell, op. cit., p.48.





The inhabitants of this county are above all else hospitable. They welcome the opportunity to favor strangers provided the visitors' intentions are believed to be good. Generally speaking these people are proud and independent citizens. They are a sport-loving people as evidenced by their numerous dances, fox races, and large crowds at all sporting events.

John M. Holtzworth, writing in 1935, made the following observation in regard to the mountains and the mountaineer.

I myself knew little enough about these mountains except that they covered a vast tract of wilderness country and that they were famous for hidden moonshine stills, bloody feuds and a proud people, composed almost exclusively of descendants of the pioneer settler of this country . . . . They welcomed us with the general hospitality of the mountaineer.<sup>11</sup>

In speaking of Western North Carolina, S. H. Hobbs made the following statement:

This region is characterized by strong family ties, formerly evidenced by family feuds which have practically disappeared. There is much close kinship, due to isolation and consequent restrictions in choosing mates. . . . As a result of poverty, isolation, poor roads in the past, and general historic background, the schools and churches are the poorest in the state, and one-teacher school persisting more than elsewhere.<sup>12</sup>

"One of the pleasures of being in North Carolina mountains is the presence of the simple and kindly people scattered everywhere over them . . . . Shut up within the barriers of the moun-

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<sup>11</sup>John M. Holtzworth, Asheville Citizen-Times, February 17, 1935.

<sup>12</sup>S. H. Hobbs, Jr., North Carolina Economic and Social, p.85.



tains and isolated from contact with the rest of the world, the mountain whites, like people cast upon an island in mid-ocean, have developed customs and a dialect of their own,"<sup>13</sup> according to Margaret Morley.

It appears that citizens of Haywood County are unduly conservative, extremely sensitive, and lacking in initiative. None of the numerous factories are controlled by natives. Only one of the half-dozen important school positions is held by an educator born in Haywood. Many leading doctors, merchants, dentists, ministers, and lawyers came here from other counties and other states. In most cases the lumbering industry and the field of transportation have been filled by outsiders. Natives of Haywood have no interest in recreational centers; comparatively few are outstanding in the field of agriculture; and the only creamery in the county was recently opened and operated by those not native to this section. Recent new comers to this section from other parts of the United States have begun to develop orchards, mining interests, electrical energy, highways, railroad beds, hotels, camps, and institutions of higher learning.

On the other hand, in order not to be misleading, natives of Haywood County have made outstanding records in various fields of endeavor outside of this county. Some have led prominent lives within the state; others have made enviable records in other states; while a few have become nationally famous.

Furthermore it is evident that the native-born of Haywood are beginning to see the opportunity which has been and still is theirs.

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<sup>13</sup>Morley, op. cit., p. 108.





Splendid roads now ribbon the county, transportation and communication have been improved, and educational facilities have increased rapidly. It may be that these factors will place Haywood County's horizon beyond her mountain peaks. Visitors will come and go, and some day they may leave the mountain people quite as uninteresting as other men.

The following table, taken for the most part from the United States Census, will show interesting facts in regard to the population of this mountain county.

Table 2.

Year <sup>14</sup>	White	Total Whites for State	Free Colored	Total Free Colored for State	Slave	Total Slave for State
1790	7512	288204	11	4975	598	100572
1800	5431	337764	34	7043	347	133290
1810	2602	376410	7	10266	171	168824
1820	3780	419200	19	14712	274	204917
1830	4224	472843	63	19843	291	245601
1840	4680	484870	21	22732	304	245817
1850	6641	553028	15	27463	418	288548
1860	5474	629042	14	30463	313	331059
1870	7406	678470	518	391650	0	0

Table 3

Population of Haywood County<sup>15</sup>

Year	Whites	Colored	Total
1880	9787	484	10271
1890	12829	517	13346
1900	15601	613	16214
1910	-----	----	21020
1920	-----	---	23496
1930	27578	695	28273

<sup>14</sup>The first date shows Burke, the second Duncombe, and the third and following Haywood, the latter county not (Cont. on p. 59)





Table 4  
Census of Towns in Haywood County

	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
Waynesville	236	455	1307	2008	1942	2414
Clyde	---	90	244	344	363	458
Hazelwood	---	---	---	428	404	1160
Canton <sup>16</sup>	---	236	230	1393	2504	5117

The first census following the War Between the States shows that Haywood County had 7904 natives with 6920 of this number born in the state. Sixty were born in Virginia and West Virginia; 521 were born in South Carolina; 228 in Tennessee; and seventy-four in Georgia. Of the seventeen foreign born one was from British America; fifteen from Ireland; and one from France. In the same year the State of North Carolina had over three thousand foreign born. Sixty years later, or in 1930, there were only seventy-five foreign born in this county. Of this number twelve were from England; eleven from Scotland; one from Northern Ireland; two from the Irish Free State; one from Norway; five from Sweden; one from the Netherlands; and one from France. Six came from Germany; one from Poland; two from Austria; five from Russia; one from Lithuania; seven from Greece; three from Italy; nine from Canada; and seven from other countries. In the same year the

<sup>14</sup>Cont. from p. 53,--being formed until 1808. A sharp decline, as in 1860, may indicate that a county had been cut from Haywood.

<sup>15</sup>In the total population statistics of the years 1880-90 were taken from R. D. W. Connor's A Manual of North Carolina, 1915. All others are from the United States Census.

<sup>16</sup>In 1890 Canton was known as Pigeon River Village.





total native white with foreign or mixed parentage was one hundred and fifty-two, with the proportion from foreign countries practically the same as the above.

In regard to occupations the census of 1810, or two years after Haywood County was formed, showed only 594 people engaged in agriculture, nine in commerce, and fifteen in manufacturing. On the other hand the 1930 census showed 5117 urbans, 11,775 as living in rural sections but not farming, while 11,381 gained their livelihood from the soil.

In 1860 there were 313 slaves in Haywood County. Of this number 176 were under twenty years of age, while four were between seventy and eighty years of age. In the same year Halifax County with a white population of only 6641 had 2452 free colored as compared with fourteen in Haywood County, and 10,349 slaves as compared with the small number in this mountain section. Buncombe, an adjoining county, had 111 free colored and 1933 slaves. Other nearby counties had an equal amount of slaves in proportion to their white populations. The fourteen free colored and eighty-four of the slaves were mulatto.

In conclusion it should be clearly understood that all native born are mountaineers just as all native born of the eastern part of North Carolina may be called low landers. Furthermore there is a difference between these people just as there is a difference between the easterner and those citizens residing in the central part of the state. There is also within this county, just as in any other, a variety of people. On an extreme is found those far away from what is thought of as the typical mountaineer, and on the other extreme is that typical mountaineer. Generally speaking





the first group is found within the towns and along the main-traveled roads. The other group is found within the least accessible coves and along the mountain sides. Of course within these extremes is an average citizenship which occupies parts of all sections of Haywood County.





## Chapter V

## HAYWOOD COUNTY BEFORE 1861

For the most part the colonial history of Haywood County centers around the Cherokee Indians. It is possible that a few trappers and traders had met the red men in this territory prior to the revolutionary period; however, no settlement was made until 1765, and few settlers had moved into this locality before the beginning of the nineteenth century. These pioneers made claims to the land, cleared the forests, and planted crops to make the owners self-sustaining. They were frontiersmen in a land where each family found it necessary to produce its own needs. Around the log cabin, corn, wheat, potatoes, and other important crops were produced within fields protected by high rail fences from wandering cattle and hogs. Agriculture was the only industry of importance; commerce was unknown; and manufacturing was limited to those necessities produced around the family fireside. The home was the school and the church, where children learned from experience more than they learned from the teachings of their parents. All in all the home was a self-centered institution, isolated by innumerable barriers, where the father ruled as a patriarch over his domain.

Valuable lands had been purchased before the formation of Haywood County. Records from other counties will attest to this statement, and the following taken from records in the register of deeds office in Waynesville will show how early lands were secured:

. . . to whom these presents shall come greeting know ye that for and in consideration . . . sum of ten pounds for every hundred acres hereby granted paid into our treasury by Thomas Hemphill and Jas McDowel have given and granted and by these present do give and grant unto the said Thomas Hemphill and Jas. McDowel a tract of land contain-





ing six hundred and forty acres lying and being in our county of Burke on Jonathans Creek waters of big Pigeon bounded by land belonging to John and Charles McDowell . . . together with all woods waters mines minerals . . . and paying to us such sums of money yearly or otherwise as our General Assembly from time to time may desire . . . .<sup>1</sup>

This land grant was signed by Governor Alexander Martin at Newbern. In 1808 the same records show land being sold on Jonathan Creek in Buncombe County for thirty-five dollars per hundred acres. In 1817 one-half acre of land along the square in Waynesville sold for eighty-four dollars and eighty-six cents.<sup>2</sup>

For the most part these newly acquired lands were to be used for farming purposes with the surrounding territory used as an open range for the grazing of cattle and hogs. The settlers were farmers who had come here to establish permanent homes. They were farmers then and their posterity have remained the same until the present day. Crude methods were used, no scientific farming was employed, and new lands were cleared as needed for an increased population or to take the place of that which had lost its fertility.

From county records it is possible to glean fragments of Haywood County's economic life during the early years of its existence. In 1810 the main items at public sales were saddles, lead, cotton cards, steel, and flint. In 1817 a sale recorded in the office of the register of deeds shows cows selling for ten dollars each, and horses for less than fifty dollars each.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Office of the Register of Deeds, Waynesville, N. C., Book A., p.3.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p.513.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p.489.





Charles Lanman, an early traveler in Western North Carolina, gives an account of this county prior to the Civil War in the following words:

Generally speaking, the soil of this county is fertile, yielding the best of corn, potatoes, and rye, but only an average quality of wheat, on account of the late frost. In some of the more extensive valleys, the apple and the peach arrive at perfection; and while the former are manufactured into cider, out of the latter the mountaineers make a very palatable brandy. The principal revenue of the people, however, is derived from the business of raising cattle, which is practiced to considerable extent. The mountain ranges afford an abundance of the sweetest grazing food, and all that the farmer has to do in the autumn is to hunt up his stock, which have now become excessively fat, and drive them to the Charleston or Baltimore market.<sup>4</sup>

With the splendid soil to which the writer refers in the above, and with other natural resources so favorable to the development of agriculture, an increasing population of Haywood County prospered on their farms. Gradually, farming sections built their communities, and, in this county, towns have been built to serve them.

In the year 1850, according to census reports, farm products of Haywood County had reached an important position. There were over thirty-five thousand acres of improved farm land, while the unimproved equaled over three hundred and fifty thousand acres. In the same report the following essential facts are given:

Value of farms \$459,457; value of farm tools \$430,186; number of horses 1233; asses and mules 237; milch cows 2,851; working oxen 128; other cattle 4,710; sheep 8,166; swine 18,410; value of livestock \$193,190; value of animals slaughtered \$37,953.

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<sup>4</sup>Lanman, Letters, p.153.





Wheat 12,704 bushels; rye 6,151 bushels; Indian corn 278,221 bushels; oats 40,805 bushels; tobacco 8550 pounds; wood 14,324 pounds; peas and beans 1,657 bushels; Irish potatoes 4,334 bushels; sweet potatoes 9,485 bushels; buckwheat 1,190 bushels; value of orchard products \$730.

Butter 55,405 pounds; cheese 115 pounds; hay 558 tons; clover seed 2 bushels; other grass seeds 168 bushels; flax 5,944 pounds; flaxseed 387 bushels; maple sugar ten pounds; molasses one gallon; beeswax and honey 2,248 pounds.<sup>5</sup>

In 1860 there was twice as much tobacco produced as in the crop ten years previous, while the production of wheat had increased three-fold. On the eve of the Civil War the value of livestock had reached over two hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars as the value of orchard products reached \$19,777, or more than twenty-five times the value reported in the year 1850. Over thirteen thousand gallons of molasses were produced in 1860 as compared to the one gallon produced ten years previously. Ginned cotton, not mentioned in 1850, had reached a production of 452 bales of four hundred pounds each.<sup>6</sup>

In 1860 there were twenty-seven farms having over three and under ten acres of land, the same number had over ten and less than twenty acres, while 159 farms had over twenty and less than fifty acres. One hundred and twenty-two farms had over fifty and less than one hundred acres and one hundred and five farms had over one hundred and less than five hundred acres. There was only one farm larger than five hundred acres. A farm was reported in the one thousand and over class.<sup>7</sup> The average farm of Haywood County

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<sup>5</sup>United States Census, 1850.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., 1860.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.



in 1860 was smaller than that of some other sections of the state. Ten years previously within the small villages and on these farms there were 1110 dwellings, housing 1,137 families.<sup>8</sup> On the eve of the struggle between the North and South the assessed value of real estate was \$789,686, while the personal estates were valued at a little over one million dollars, according to the census of that year.

Into Haywood County's farming system prior to 1860 a few slaves found their way. However, it must be remembered that this was still a frontier section in many respects, and thus it was not a place adapted to the rapid growth of slavery. J. S. Bassett said that it was noticeable that slavery, even in the days of the greatest excitement over the slave question, was of a milder type in the western counties.<sup>9</sup> It does appear, however, that the cotton belt was advancing toward the mountains, and some cotton was already being produced in Haywood County. Also it seems that section would prove a splendid breeding place for negroes to be sold to the eastern and piedmont sections of the state. W. K. Boyd clearly shows that the institution of slavery was gradually shifting toward the west; in 1790 no western counties had a preponderance of slaves; yet in 1860 there was a majority of slaves in four western counties.<sup>10</sup> It appears that negroes came to this

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<sup>8</sup>U. S. Census, 1850.

<sup>9</sup>J. S. Bassett, Slavery in the State of North Carolina, p. 8.

<sup>10</sup>W. K. Boyd, History of North Carolina, II, 204.





county in the early stages of its development. In 1814 there was listed "one negro girl named Tildy aged six years for the sum of one hundred and seventy-five dollars".<sup>11</sup> Slaves are mentioned occasionally in these records until emancipation. In 1825, for example, one negro and child sold for \$678, and about the same year a wench and child brought \$210. In 1826 a twenty-four years of age male was listed at \$500. However, it is the 313 slaves in Haywood County in 1860 to which attention is directed.

The following table shows the number of slaves various Haywood County owners possessed.<sup>12</sup>

Table 5

Number of owners of slaves	Number of slaves owned
19	1
12	2
7	3
4	4
4	5
2	6
2	7
2	8
4	9
3	10-15
2	15-20
1	20-30
1	50-70

Thus sixty-three slaveholders owned the 313 slaves within Haywood County in 1860. On an average they owned less than five and far under the state average of slightly less than ten slaves. All counties had slaves. Watauga, with 104 slaves and thirty-one

<sup>11</sup>Office of the Register of Deeds, Waynesville, N.C., Book A, p. 485.

<sup>12</sup>United States Census, 1860.





slaveholders, had the fewest; while Granville, with 11,000 slaves and 1,000 owners, had the greatest number of slaves of any county within this state.

Of course the slaves played a minor role in the history of Haywood County as far as labor is concerned. In fact there were so few of them that they did not influence the political or social history of this section. It appears that these slaves were well treated, being in close contact with their owners at all times during the working periods. The slaves of the mountains were the happiest and the most independent portion of the population, according to Charles Lanman, a traveler and writer of this section in the late forties.<sup>13</sup> The same writer continues by saying that the slaves have comfortable homes, plenty of clothing and food, and free access to the Sunday schools and churches. In most cases, according to the best oral information, masters went to the fields with their slaves, shared with them their food, and worked with them in making their clothing. Some of the negroes ate in the master's house and lived in nearby cabins. Many of them lived in the homes of the owners. With their other privileges the negroes of this county were permitted to visit from one farm to another. It does not seem that harsher laws were used as they appeared from time to time throughout the other sections of the South.

The above facts coincide with statements made in a letter from the son of one of Haywood County's average slaveholders. He further stated, "Father did not hire his negroes out but got some

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<sup>13</sup>Lanman, op. cit., pp.154f.



white labor to work with them to produce our principal crops of corn, wheat, and rye. The money crop was not tobacco, but cattle, horses, mules, jacks, hogs, and sheep. Too, we sold flour and bacon. It was the duty of the slaves to aid in caring for these products of the farm."<sup>14</sup>

If interviews and letters can be used as reliable information, it appears that the slaves of Haywood County were exceptionally well treated in all respects. These slaves, for the most part were either bred here or brought in from Virginia, and were of much value to their owners either as aids in the master's home or in his fields. They did all types of work; some were trained; some were not. Although the slaves never ate with the whites, many of them ate within the same house. If only one or two slaves were owned they usually slept in the home of their master. Some owners provided log shacks where the slaves ate and slept. It appears that punishment was seldom needed, but on certain occasions withes were applied. Slaves attended the white men's churches, being allowed to sit on the back rows to hear sermons delivered by white preachers. None of the slaves attended schools but some learned to read and write. Several married on their master's farm; others found their wives on nearby property, being allowed nights for visiting, usually on week-ends. Negroes soon left the farming sections of Haywood County as soon as they were granted freedom. However, some of the children cried when taken away, and some old slaves remained to serve their former owners and to be buried in

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<sup>14</sup>George Garrett, Letter to the writer from Waynesville, N. C., July 1935.





the white men's graveyard.

It is impossible to furnish an accurate estimate of the value of manufactured products in Haywood County prior to the struggle between the North and South. Practically every family made things required within each home. As previously stated the farmers of this locality were self-sustaining. Each hewed the logs for his home, split boards to cover it, sawed rough planks for its floor, made leather or iron hinges for its door, placed slide windows or planks at convenient places, and made the wooden or metal nails to fasten all into a complete house. These mountaineers became ingenious in the making of the necessary equipment used in the production of farm products. They were blacksmiths, making the majority of their farm tools. They were tanners, making their leather from the hides of their cattle. They were tailors, making their clothing from the wool of their sheep. The pioneers made the water wheels for their grist mills, yokes for their oxen, and rails for their fences. Very few "store-bought" articles made their way into the homes of the early mountaineers of Haywood County. An outstanding trait of these early people was a wonderful ability to manufacture necessities. Even at the present time the people of Haywood County have numerous home-made articles within their homes and on the farms. This is one of the traits which remains to aid in making the people of this section picturesque.

In 1850 the value of home manufactures was \$30,027.<sup>15</sup> of course this meager sum does not include the numerous items which

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<sup>15</sup>United States Census, 1850.





would be so difficult, if not impossible, to record. This report probably referred to the clothing made within the homes, and other items placed on the market. It could not include the value of manufactured rails each farmer used to protect his crops from the open range; it could not include sled runners hewn from the sourwood trees; and this report probably failed to place the proper value on the gourds found at the majority of the county's spring-houses.

In the census of 1860 only two industries were shown in Haywood County. Those were mills for the production of flour and meal and the typical mountain sawmills. In the year prior to the Civil War there were four flour and meal establishments with a capital of \$7,250, using raw material valued at \$2,940, hiring five male helpers at a cost of \$960 for each year. The value of the products produced by the four mills was \$3,890. The three sawmills had a capital value of \$1,400, used \$900 worth of raw material, employed two male helpers at a cost of \$576, and produced \$1,520 worth of finished products each year.

In the same year Buncombe, an adjoining county, had forty establishments, paid over twenty thousand dollars for labor, and produced products with an annual value of more than one hundred and forty thousand dollars. Cherokee, another western county, produced goods with a value more than three times greater than those of Haywood; and Macon, a nearby county, manufactured articles worth more than eight times those of Haywood County. It appears that the latter county was truly a section of farmers, interested in manufacturing only as it served their private needs.

An industry which is considered one of Haywood County's most





important even at the present time took roots here before the beginning of the War Between the States. Tourists began to come to this section so early that the county was not ready for them. Writing in a Charleston, South Carolina, paper in 1851, a visitor gave the following recommendations in order for Waynesville to become a tourist center:

On the completion of the Greenville Rail Road, and the Asheville Plank road, what is to become of the increased influx of visitors. . . . Let a large Hotel be built at Waynesville . . . and it would soon repay its owner with interest . . . . The straggling hamlet would become a thriving town, the dense forests be converted into cultivated farms, and the mountains would echo the chiming of the Sabbath bell, while crowds of industrious and happy people would be seen wending their way to the village church with heaven-pointed spire. Truly, he who takes the first steps towards these improvements would be termed a benefactor to his county . . . .<sup>16</sup>

Probably the completion of roads to Haywood County would have advanced the tourist industry more than the erection of a hotel. It seems evident that a lack of transportation facilities, more than any other cause, hindered development of all industries, and continued to retard the progress of Western North Carolina until recent years. Transportation was confined to horse-drawn vehicles over narrow roads, aggravated from time to time by the mixture of a heavy rainfall with a clay soil so prevalent in this county. It was necessary for the first settlers to journey over these poor roads to Charleston, South Carolina, in order to trade their produce for necessities not present in the mountainous section. Even as late as 1846 the merchants of Asheville appealed through adver-

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<sup>16</sup>I. J. P., The Courier, Charleston, S. C., October 28, 1851.



The following are the names of the persons who have been  
 named in the various reports of the committee on the  
 subject of the proposed amendment to the constitution of the  
 State of New York, and who have been named in the  
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ALBANY, N. Y., JANUARY 1, 1892.

tisements to people of this locality to purchase goods from them rather than make the long trip as they had heretofore been doing to patronize the Charleston and Augusta markets.<sup>17</sup>

The market at Charleston had been important to Western North Carolina even before the Revolutionary period. It was a long and difficult journey; nevertheless, it was necessary for the pioneers of Haywood County to take their wagons there for a few necessities which could not be produced in their newly acquired territory. Later the markets moved nearer home. Greenville became the last market in South Carolina to which residents of this section drove their teams of horses for finished products in the distant market.

Until comparatively recent years the roads and modes of transportation were very crude. There was no improved surface on the highways; no bridges spanned the rivers. Even the ancient modes of transportation could not be used for a part of the year. Wagons, sleds, and even the pack-horse could not cross some streams during heavy rains, and the travel by wagon was impossible for many weeks throughout the year. With conditions like these remaining in Haywood County more than a hundred years after its organization there is no surprise to find that little progress was made, especially in the manufacturing and tourist industries. There was, however, in 1830 a stage which made a round-trip once a week that left Asheville by Turkey Creek to Waynesville, to Franklin, and to Clayton, Georgia, a distance of ninety-eight miles.<sup>18</sup> This appears to have been the only public service from the county of

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<sup>17</sup>Highland Messenger, VI, 33,  
(January 10, 1846.)

Asheville, N. C.,

<sup>18</sup>The Western Carolinian, Asheville, N. C., August 17, 1830.





Haywood to any points outside. It is very doubtful, with roads as they were then, if this means of transportation could have been very dependable. Anyway the pioneers of this section were not interested in leaving. They could send once each year to the markets to obtain a few necessities. It is doubtful if transportation proved much worry to the farmers of Haywood County before the Civil War.

Thus, hindered by the absence of transportation facilities, it is not likely that Haywood County played more than a minor part in any affairs of the state or nation. The only reminders of the Revolutionary War are graves of ten soldiers, reputed to have been in the struggle for Independence, and a marker to their memory which is located on the court house lawn in Waynesville. The only part taken by this county in the war of 1812 was the enlistment of approximately one hundred and fifty men who were never called for service. The Mexican War was just as far removed from the mountains of Western North Carolina and as remote from the minds of its citizens.<sup>19</sup>

In the political fields Haywood County was more active. It appears that able men were representing this county in the halls of the state assembly. From 1809 until 1835, the year of the state constitutional convention, there were eighty-one seats to be filled from Haywood County. Only twenty-one men were elected to fill these places, showing an average length of about four terms for each office holder. From 1836 through 1860 there were

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<sup>19</sup> Names taken from the marker mentioned above may be found in W. C. Allen's Annals of Haywood County, as well as in the voluntary list of the War of 1812.





twenty-six seats to be filled in the general assembly. Nine men performed this service, with approximately three terms for each. No definite information is available; however, it is assumed that the majority of these men were Whigs, fighting for internal improvements and equality of representation in North Carolina.

Before the struggle between the states there were few questions to cause a division in county and state politics. According to leading political figures within the county today the Whig party dominated affairs here. Before 1860 influential leaders were developed within each community who had been able to mold the policies of their localities. The East Fork and Cecil sections had leaders who were and remained non-secessionists. Clyde and Canton, too, had leaders supporting the same belief. For many years following the Civil War these districts were in the folds of the Republican Party, and at the present some of their ablest leaders are of that party. It appears that the determining factor which affiliated many citizens with a party was not a difference in political thought, but, rather, it was an unequal balance of power in party leadership.

It is difficult to determine what influence economics had on the politics of a mountain county. Madison County is a Republican stronghold while Haywood County is just as strong with members of the Democratic Party. There is hardly a negro in the former, several in the latter. The first has fewer factories than the second county. The difference is probably due to strong party leadership at some particular period in each county's history. The same situation, previously mentioned, is present within Haywood County. Cecil Township, certainly not a manufacturing





section, is filled with natives who are outspoken in their trust in the Republican Party. On the other hand Canton with a dominating Republican majority in the beginning is now in the Democratic column. In recent years it has become one of the largest manufacturing centers of the state and the home of many families moving in from the northern section of the United States. With so many cross sections in the political life of the county today it is very difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the true political history here before the War Between the States.

In the early days of its history the western part of the state wished a change in the manner in which representatives were selected. There was a demand that representation should be based on population rather than divisions of the state. As early as 1790 the west urged reform.<sup>20</sup> In 1822 the west, seeing that the east would do nothing, decided to hold a convention to bring their proposition before the people. Very little was accomplished because these people could not agree on whether or not slaves should be counted in the population. However in 1835 the Whig Party gained control and demanded reform. The people were given the privilege of a convention. The policies of the western people demanded internal improvements, education, general progress in the development of the resources of the State, and encouragement of immigration. Haywood County voted 474 for the Convention and thirty-three against it. This county favored amendments submitted by the convention by a vote of 484 to eight.

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<sup>20</sup>North Carolina State Records, xxi, p. 1052.





In 1836 Hugh L. White, the Whig candidate for President, received 136 votes, while Martin Van Buren, the Democratic candidate, received 205 votes in Haywood County. However from the election of 1840 through that of 1860 the Whig candidate for President was given the majority of votes here. To the amendment abolishing slavery Haywood County gave 261 votes in its favor compared with eighteen against it. The vote on the amendment forbidding secession was 243 for and eighteen<sup>8</sup> against. In general the political ship of Haywood County sailed a steady and direct course. There was little deviation in the strength of any party. The voters appeared to be very conservative, seldom breaking the bonds of their party's policies.

The educational history of Haywood County prior to the Civil War is similar to that of other counties of the state during the same period. From the first settlement in 1785 until 1839 there was nothing even resembling free education. There were, however, private schools supported by tuition fees. The Green Hill Academy was chartered in 1809, and ran almost continuously until the opening of the War Between the States.<sup>21</sup> Other schools prior to 1861 included a classical school at Waynesville, taught by James H. Norwood, Locust Field Academy, Bethel Academy, Hickory Grove Academy, and many smaller schools widely scattered throughout the county.

In 1839 Haywood County was one that took advantage of the Literary Fund, whereby local taxes would secure twenty dollars to be matched by forty dollars from the state treasury. The amount

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<sup>21</sup>Allen, Annals, p. 210.



received by each county varied from about two hundred and fifty dollars to \$800. In 1841 Haywood County received from the Literary Fund \$346.35. By 1850 there were forty-three public schools conducted by the same number of teachers, having 824 pupils, with an income for these schools of \$762. During the same year there were two academies with three teachers and seventy-five students, having an income of \$195. The Sunday School owned the only library in the county at that time. It consisted of eight hundred volumes.<sup>22</sup>

The register of a common school in district thirty-nine, commencing August 1, 1859, shows that the alphabet, spelling, reading, writing, and grammar were taught. Mr. G. H. Nelson, the teacher, apparently not well educated, received fifteen dollars each month for his two and one-half months of service. Besides the above branches taught there were places on the student's record to place grades in arithmetic, geography, general progress, conduct, and punishment. The patrons of this typical school of Haywood County prior to the Civil War consisted of five farmers, one miller, one blacksmith, and two widows. Mr. Nelson opened his school by reading his rules and giving a short address to his scholars. On August seventeenth his school was visited by a committeeman who remained several hours inspecting the register and hearing the pupils recite.<sup>23</sup>

Meager physical equipment and numerous unqualified teachers

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<sup>22</sup> The information above of 1850 was taken from the census of the United States of that year.

<sup>23</sup> The register mentioned above is in the possession of Mrs. J. L. Queen, Waynesville, N. C.





testify to the fact that Haywood County was poorly developed in education history prior to the Civil War. Teachers were paid approximately fifteen to twenty-five dollars a month to teach sixty to one hundred days of school. This work was usually performed under the most trying conditions, with poorly trained instructors, inadequate buildings, and unsatisfactory transportation facilities as the chief contributing causes. Haywood County awaited a much later day to even begin a modern educational program. In fact, at the present time there are children in sections of the county whose training is still limited by meager educational facilities. Today, however, the county is moving rapidly forward to an educational development undreamed of by the pioneers of 1860.

Early churches had an important part in the educational program of Haywood County. Buildings established primarily for religious purposes were frequently used to house the teachers and their pupils during the entire school term. Before 1860 the Methodists and Baptists were the only religious units in this county. It seems that the pioneers were a religious group and established churches even in the smaller communities. There were far more churches than school houses, due to the mountaineer's individualism and lack of cooperation.

According to the national census of 1850 Haywood County had sixteen Methodist churches, able to accommodate 3,325, and valued at \$3,025. In the same year the Baptist denomination possessed ten churches, with a seating capacity of 2,650, and valued at \$2,175. In this census a variety of religious denominations are listed; however, only the Methodist and Baptist are shown from





Haywood County. Ten years later, that is in 1860, census reports show seven fewer churches with accommodations for almost two thousand more people, and having an aggregate value of \$7,000.

Even before the formation of the county in 1808 these churches had made their appearance. At the opening of the nineteenth century the Baptist began in the present town of Canton with the Locust Field Church. About the same time the Methodists had their first worship in a room of the Jacob Shook house where the town of Clyde now stands. The settlement at Crabtree constituted a Baptist church in 1814, the First Baptist was constituted at Canton in 1820, at Waynesville three years later, and the Bethel community constituted its church in 1845.<sup>24</sup> In the meantime the members of the Methodist faith had not been idle. They, too, had organized churches in these communities and were pioneers in the religious history of Haywood County.

These and other churches organized before 1860 formed the basis of a marvelous religious development. Camp grounds were established where the people remained for days to hear the preaching of the gospel. Circuit riders, quarterly conferences, and baptizings played their import roles. The churches served as a community center around which much social life developed.

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<sup>24</sup>This information on the organization of the Baptist Churches was secured from a summary table of a Baptist publication on the Haywood Association, Waynesville, North Carolina, August 24, 1933.



## Chapter V

## THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

A study of records appears to indicate that Haywood County was not well versed in the art of carrying on war. It seems that her citizens were more interested in the pursuit of peace prior to the actual conflict of 1861-65. A marker on the corner of the court house lawn furnishes the names of ten Revolutionary soldiers buried in this county. A roster of soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution, which gives the names of soldiers receiving pensions, the year they began receiving them, the rank of the soldier, and other related information, practically completes what is known in regard to this section's first soldiers.<sup>1</sup> This roster shows the pensions beginning in 1831, having ten men listed, including only the name of Sargent Robert Love and Private Jacob Shook to coincide with the names on the local marker. Even though ten Revolutionary soldiers are buried here, it is evident that the few citizens who may have been within Haywood County during the colonial struggle were not interested in the ways of war.

Professor W. C. Allen said, "Very little concerning the part taken by Haywood County in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War can be found. Practically the veteran of the Revolution was also the veteran of 1812".<sup>2</sup> One hundred and forty-five men were called

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<sup>1</sup>Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution, p.436.

<sup>2</sup>W. C. Allen, Annals, p. 64.





into service for the war of 1812 but were never placed on duty. Not a soldier of this county received any experience in the Mexican War. Thus Haywood County's background of war was indeed limited when her citizens decided to send no troops to President Lincoln's aid.

There is no doubt that the citizens of Western North Carolina were diametrically opposed to the idea that a section of the nation had the privilege of withdrawal. There is no reason to believe that Haywood County supported any other than the Union cause. If slaves were the issue, this section of the state had little interest since out of a population in 1860 of 5,474 only sixty-three persons owned the 313 slaves within this county. Other economic questions would appear to be of as little interest to an isolated section forced to solve its own problems. It appears that the mountaineer, as a general rule, was opposed to the use of slaves to do the work for which the white man received no pay. Union sentiment was strong in Western North Carolina before Lincoln called for troops, and remained present, although not to so great an extent, throughout the entire four years of the war.

In a sketch of the twenty-fifth regiment an anonymous writer stated, "With the exception of a part of Company G the regiment was composed of mountain men west of the ridge. . . . There were but few slave owners in the regiment, ninety percent of the men were farmers and farmers' sons, full eighty percent home owners, or the sons of farmers who owned their farms . . . . The majority of the men composing the regiment had been Union men until after President Lincoln's Proclamation. . . ."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Waynesville Courier, Waynesville, N. C., February 26, 1897.





Colonel George W. Kirk, the soldier who led raids into Haywood County, was a deserter from the Confederate cause and had a group of followers composed of men from Western North Carolina and the eastern part of Tennessee. A letter written by Lieutenant Parker in the North Carolina Standard of March 5, 1862, stated that Western North Carolina was in danger since Federals had planned an attack on Asheville. When this was done, he continued, fifteen or twenty thousand in that county would flock to Lincoln, as many were constantly doing at that time.

In a letter from Morganton, August 29, 1863, supposed to have been written by V. C. Barringer, the following is recorded:

I know not how it is elsewhere, but this part of the State is in a deplorable condition--on every edge, indeed, of civil strife and butchery. The mountains are full of deserters, who are banded together and emboldened by a disloyal public opinion, which is daily finding expression in popular assemblages and otherwise. All persons are beginning to feel that sense of insecurity which is at once the cause and the effect of internal commotion, and presages a speedy appeal to arms unless arrested. The root of the whole is a deadly hostility to our cause of Government . . . .<sup>4</sup>

It appears evident that within Haywood County there were plenty of citizens who did not show any particular interest in the cause of the Confederacy. It seems that several people preferred the Union but were pulled into the conflict by forces over which they had no control. Conversation upon this subject with those living through the conflict is filled with references to deserters and to those who were bitterly opposed to secession before Lincoln called for troops.

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<sup>4</sup>Smith, Mary Shannon, Union Sentiment in North Carolina During the Civil War, in Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Session of the State Literary and Historical Association of North Carolina, Bulletin No. 20.



Nevertheless, when President Lincoln asked North Carolina to send troops to suppress the rebellion, public sentiment in this county made an almost complete reverse. Even though there were deserters and some strong anti-secessionists, Haywood County sent her share of soldiers to the front lines of the Confederate army. So many left their homes that food had to be sent here for their families. According to a newspaper account, so great was the response of Haywood men to the call of President Davis that not enough were left to support the women and children.<sup>5</sup>

If repetition of names may be discounted, one thousand and sixty-two soldiers were enlisted from Haywood County for the War Between the States, according to Moore's<sup>5</sup> roster of troops furnished the Confederacy. In transfers from one company to another it is possible that several men are listed more than one time. Professor W. C. Allen gives the number from Haywood County as about twelve hundred.

Moore's roster indicates that fewer than seventy-five men of Haywood County lost their lives in the War Between the States. Only thirteen of these were killed in action. Fifty-five died of disease while in service, one was killed by accident, and three died of wounds received in action. In the four years of conflict, according to the same authority, fifty-one soldiers were wounded and four were taken as prisoners. The service of local troops is

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<sup>5</sup>North Carolina Standard, November 6, 1861, and November 19, 1862.





shown by the extent of sections in which deaths occurred; namely, Seven Pines, Fredericksburg, Malvern Hill, Sharpsburg, Petersburg, Winchester, Near Richmond, Farmville, Wilson, South Carolina, Gaines' Mill, Chicamauga, Dalton, (Georgia), Loudon, (Tennessee), and Warm Springs.

More of Haywood County's soldiers enlisted in 1862 than in any other year. Almost as many had enlisted the previous year. Others, but few in contrast to the first two years, were enlisted in '63 and '64. These soldiers were enrolled in the eighth, sixteenth, twenty-fifty, twenty-ninth, thirty-ninth, sixty-second, sixty-ninth, and seventieth regiments. The highest ranking officer from this county was Colonel R. G. A. Love. There were approximately sixty other commissioned officers.

Of course no battles occurred in Haywood County; however, Colonel Kirk and Colonel Bartlett did bring several Federal soldiers into this county, causing a few scattered shots to be fired and a combatant on each side to be killed. This trouble resulted after Lee and Johnston had surrendered. A truce was quickly drawn whereby the Federals agreed to leave Haywood County and the Confederates disbanded to their respective homes. A marker recently erected on the Sulphur Spring's grounds states that on that place the last shot of the Civil War in North Carolina was fired.

All activity did not cease in Haywood County during the period of war. For the most part the struggle was far removed from the coves and hamlets of this section. Agriculture progressed, some schools continued to train the youth in the ways of peace, churches were still open, and the few men left probably lost no opportunity to discuss the political difficulties of the nation.





The majority of families seemed to produce enough to serve their wants, while others were cared for by local and state governments. It appears that the population of Western North Carolina had enough to entice raiders into this section. The following letter, dated 1863, will give a fair indication of the conditions within Haywood County during the War Between the States.

Money is plentiful. Property of all kinds up to fabulous prices. Cows \$100 . . . horses \$200-800. Corn \$3; wheat \$6. Other things even beyond this. Times are hard yet I am confident no person in Haywood County will suffer for provision. Our county has placed \$8000 in the hands of a suitable agent whose business it is to see that no soldier's wife or family shall suffer. And better still, our county is resolved that if the time require it more money shall be forthcoming. High prices are the necessary consequence of an abundance of money. Gold or silver to an amount equal to our present paper currency would not in the least change present prices. I think it is highly probably that there will be more grain grown in Haywood this year than ever before. I know of no land lying out for the want of hands to work it--many of the noble women are fully . . . .<sup>6</sup>

It is evident that all phases of activities in Haywood County were hindered by the conflict which was in progress. Either directly or indirectly the War Between the States retarded the development of natural resources within this county. Nevertheless, as above stated, economic conditions were only slightly altered during the four years of struggle, and, as far as the county could control affairs, it appears possible that some phases of the agricultural program recorded development. Other activities, although not moving as rapidly as they could have under normal

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<sup>6</sup>Letter from Pink Welch, dated 1863, in the possession of Mrs. T. Lenoir Gwyn, Waynesville, North Carolina.



conditions, tended to show some improvement. Following the Civil War, Haywood County continued to move forward in all phases of her economic, political, and social life.

"The evil . . . of reconstruction, carpet-bag government, and negro domination . . . were not felt to any great extent in the mountains; for no matter which political party triumphed at the polls, the government machinery was still in the hands of the home people and not aliens," according to Professor Allen.<sup>7</sup> No better proof of the county's progress could be shown than by a comparison of the census reports. In the year 1870 Haywood County had more than two thousand acres of improved land over the amount shown by the previous census. The county had more horses, nearly a thousand more milch cows, a few thousand more pounds of tobacco, and an increase in the value of animals slaughtered of more than twenty-five thousand dollars, besides increases in numerous other products from the census of 1860 to that of 1870. The same years show, among other things, an increase in the value of all livestock, an increase in mules and asses, working oxen, sheep, wheat, rye, wool, peas and beans, wine, butter, sorghum, beeswax, and honey. These products were raised on 1,083 farms, with almost four-fifths of them under fifty acres in size.<sup>8</sup>

Manufacturing was still confined to a few flour, meal, and lumber mills during the days of the war and reconstruction. Even at this, however, the value of manufactured products increased almost five-fold in the ten years following the Civil War. The

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<sup>7</sup>Allen, Annals, p. 100.

<sup>8</sup>United States Census, 1870.





value of home manufactured goods continued to hold an important position in the industrial life of Haywood County. A large portion of clothing, besides numerous other items that were essential in the homes and on the farms of this mountain area, was made within the homes.

All industries were seriously handicapped by the lack of transportation facilities. As yet no railroad was nearer than Greenville, South Carolina, and stage coaches were unreliable. Mail was uncertain, and freight service was almost unknown. Until late in the nineteenth century wagons were the only means whereby the mountaineers could exchange their produce with traders of piedmont North Carolina. The first wagoners had to go far into South Carolina to sell their apples and meat in order to purchase salt, sugar, clothing and other needed commodities. The following letter will furnish some idea of the lack of commercial advantages in Haywood County prior to the coming of the Western Carolina Railroad in 1882.

"You asked me to describe one of my early trips to a nearby market. I will tell you about a trip from Tuscola (now Lake Junaluska) to Newberry, S. C., in December 1875."

I used two 2-horse wagons. I drove the front wagon and Adam Babb (colored) drove the second. I drove a team of three horses and Bab drove a team of two mules. On this trip we traveled about one hundred and forty miles each way. It took us ten days each way to make the trip. We stopped off two days in Greenville, which is eighty-five miles from home.

I carried apples on the going trip and returned with salt, leather, and sugar. The return load was picked up at Greenville, the nearest railroad point at that time. I carried sixty bushels of apples on the going trip and sold them for one dollar and fifty cents per bushel. I bought salt at one dollar per bag of a hundred pounds.

The roads were bad to Greenville. They were narrow





with deep holes and very muddy. Sometimes the axles would drag. Part of the time the weather was fair, but we had some rain, sleet, and snow.

We took enough meat for the round trip and other articles of food for part of the trip. We could find places that were fairly convenient in order to buy the other things we needed.

Our wagons were covered and used at night for sleeping quarters. We traveled about ten hours daily. The wagons had feed troughs attached to the rear of the beds and the horses and mules were hitched with halters at night to the rear of the wagons.

I traveled some sections where the houses would be one to three miles apart. I made a trip every year for about fifteen years. Some of these trips were only to Greenville as this was the first railroad point. I took apples, flour, bacon, dried fruit, and eggs most of the time. I sold these products and bought sugar, coffee, salt, nails, leather, and other necessary articles. I also bought goods for merchants in Clyde and Waynesville and charged them one dollar transportation charges for each hundred pounds.<sup>9</sup>

New roads were gradually being built as settlers developed various sections of the county. However, these roads were only graded, having no top surface to protect them in order that they be passable during the wet seasons. All modern means of transportation awaited a later day in the history of Haywood County.

This county had in 1870 an assessed value of real estate of \$438,760, and a personal estate of \$365,432. The true valuation of this real and personal estate was listed at \$1,608,384. The state tax was \$7,452, with a county tax of \$3,375. The public debt for which bonds were issued was \$350, and all other debts were shown as \$3,000.<sup>10</sup>

Politically the county played no large part in state affairs. The representative of Haywood County, W. G. B. Garrett, aided in re-writing the state constitution. In 1871 Waynesville became

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<sup>9</sup> A portion of letter from W. T. Reeves, Lake Junaluska, N. C., to the writer at Durham, 1931.

<sup>10</sup> United States Census, 1870.



the first incorporated town of the county. The period of reconstruction tended to cement the Democratic Party, since there were some phases of military rule present within this locality. Waynesville became a stronghold of this political organization and has remained the same until today.

In 1868 Haywood County gave the Democratic nominee, Horatio Seymour, 660 votes, while U. S. Grant received 412. In the following national election the county gave Horace Greeley 668 votes as compared with 341 for U. S. Grant. In 1876 Haywood reached a new place in vote casting, placing 1010 for Democratic Tilden while giving 427 votes to Rutherford B. Hayes.<sup>11</sup>

Educationally the county continued to advance even during the difficult times of Civil War and reconstruction. During this period scattered schools remained open, including several of the academies. Richland Institute, at the present Lake Junaluska, was chartered in 1861. Other schools of this type were operating in various sections of Haywood County. In 1861 Mr. I. M. White taught a small school containing about sixteen pupils of the Dellwood section. The school continued for two and one-half months, the same period as taught before the struggle between the states. Mr. White taught the three R's and spelling. In 1863 Miss Julia Wright taught the same school at eleven dollars a month. She had only half as many pupils as the previous teacher, with her students ranging in age from seven to fourteen years of age. Ten years later the school taught by Miss Wright paid the instructor twenty-seven dollars for teaching forty-two pupils Webster's Spelling

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<sup>11</sup>U. S. Census, 1870, 1880.





Book, McGuffey's Third Reader, and Davies' Arithmetic. These students were from six to twenty years of age, with many more boys than girls. If spelling and sentence construction are sufficient criteria, the teachers were very poorly prepared to properly instruct the students.<sup>12</sup> However, schools of this type kept the torch of education burning, preparing the way for future development.

In the meantime religious development had been going forward very steadily. Upon the foundation, placed here in the beginning of the county's history by Bishop Francis Asbury and Humphrey Posey, the Methodists and Baptists continued to build their religious structure. In 1870 the Baptist association had twelve organizations, the Methodist sixteen, and the Episcopalian and Presbyterian one each. Their total of twenty-eight buildings, with a value of \$9,725, and a seating capacity of 5,350,<sup>13</sup> indicates an improvement over previous years. Churches continued to have an important part in each community toward the advancement of Haywood County.

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<sup>12</sup>Information from school register in possession of Mrs. Mary Noland Queen, Waynesville, N. C.

<sup>13</sup>U. S. Census, 1870.





## Chapter VII

### HAYWOOD COUNTY FROM 1876

The most important event within Haywood County during the latter years of the nineteenth century was the coming of the Western North Carolina Railroad. On January 28, 1882 the Western North Carolina Railroad was completed from Greensboro to Pigeon River, the present town of Canton, Haywood County, North Carolina.<sup>1</sup> Balsam Gap, on the opposite side of this mountainous county, was crossed in 1883,<sup>2</sup> and Haywood County was riveted with steel and ties to the here-to-fore outside world. Within a short time the road was completed to Murphy in the extreme western part of North Carolina. The railroad served not only as a means over which commerce could flow into this area, but also as a route whereby the produce of the mountain people could reach the market. And more important, the new railroad brought visitors who taught and learned, and it took away the natives to the culture of far away cities. It was the burst of an outside world upon the fastness of a mountainous land.

Mr. A. E. Ward, in charge of one of three camps of prisoners used to work on the railroad, relates the following story.

In 1882 all forces were concentrated on the line towards the west. Three camps, with about one hundred and twenty-five convicts in each, were in this county. Besides the convicts, Mr. A. B. Fortune had a camp in the bottom at the old Brindle place just below the R. N.

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<sup>1</sup>L. J. P. Arthur, Western North Carolina, A History, p. 479.

<sup>2</sup>A. E. Ward, in an interview with the writer, Lake Junaluska, N. C., May 1935.



Barber orchard at Saunook. Mr. Fortune hired 'free labor' to complete two miles of railroad. Mr. Fagg used the same type of laborer to dig the large cut at Canton and construct some miles beyond. This labor was paid one dollar a day and constituted the only 'free labor' to serve on the construction of the railroad through Haywood County.

J. M. McMurry had a camp in the flat near the high tressel east of Canton. A Mr. Jones had one about one-half mile east of Clyde, and I had a camp on the Kindred Reeves farm at Lake Junaluska. Each of these camps contained one hundred and twenty-five men, about thirty-three per cent of which were colored. These convicts not only did the excavation work but they also did the laying of steel and the making of culverts and tressels.<sup>3</sup>

The building of this railroad ended sectional strife which had been rampant for a decade. Western newspapers had clamored for its completion. "The people of the west have got nothing," stated an editorial in the Asheville News of February 24, 1859. The writer continued: "We have not doubt the people of the west will readily embrace this tender of dissolution of every tie that binds us together as one people . . . ." The Franklin Observer and The Orator, two North Carolina newspapers of the same time, were just as outspoken in demanding a railroad for the western part of North Carolina. Thus this road was not only of economic significance but it also occupied a political position of foremost rank.

Suffice it to say that for some reason or reasons the Western North Carolina Railroad was chartered in 1848 and on July 11th, 1851, the ceremony of breaking ground was performed at Greensboro. Of course the work was discontinued during and a few years following the War Between the States. After a few changes of ownership

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<sup>3</sup>A. E. Ward in an interview with the writer, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, May 1935.





of the line the state decided to take charge and did so by the following act:

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact, That the North Carolina Railroad Company, a corporation chartered by the General Assembly, session one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight and one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, is hereby authorized to construct and make, or to purchase, hold and complete the construction of a railway from Salisbury to or near the line of division between this state and Tennessee line in the county of Cherokee.

That said North Carolina Railroad Company may purchase the Western North Carolina Railroad. . . .

That immediately after the sale of the first bonds, the said North Carolina Railroad Company shall commence work on the railroad . . . and continue the work without intermission until the road is completed . . . from a point near Asheville to the Tennessee or Georgia line, in Cherokee County.<sup>4</sup>

However, within a short time, the state became afraid of their investment and decided to sell. The road was practically completed to Asheville in 1880 when Governor Jarvis called a special session of the legislature for the purpose of considering the sale of the state's railroad. W. J. Best, J. N. Tappan, W. R. Grace, and J. D. Fish had proposed to buy the road and finish it to the Tennessee line. In an address delivered by Governor Jarvis to the assembly he said:

The Western North Carolina Railroad belongs to the people of North Carolina. It has been built up to its present condition by your money, it is slowly progressing towards completion by the aid you give it, and surely you have the right to say whether you will sell it to those who will complete it, or will continue to be taxed for its construction.

Under existing laws, the appropriations for building of a road . . . for interest of the first mortgage bonds, \$59,500; for the purchase of iron and material, \$70,000; and for the support of convicts about \$45,000 . . . . To collect this money and place it in the Treasury the sheriffs get 5 per cent commission, amounting to \$3,725, which added \$174,500, the amount

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<sup>4</sup>North Carolina Public and Private Laws, 1873-1874,  
chapter 33, pp.34-36.





collected, makes \$183,000 in money collected out of your property every year.

Before your plighted faith is broken, you are entitled to the opportunity of accepting, if you desire, a proposition that will enable you to keep that faith, and to strengthen rather than loosen the bonds that bind the mountains to the plains.<sup>5</sup>

The sale to the United Trust Company, under which name the above mentioned purchasers did business, stipulated among other things, that the line should be finished to Murphy on or before January 1, 1885. The company, headed by Mr. Best, failed financially and the road was in 1880 turned over to Clyde, Logan, and Buford, the men who had furnished the money for the purchase from the state. These men controlled the old Richmond and Danville road and this and the Western North Carolina Railroad went into the hands of the receivers and finally on August 22, 1894, the line through Haywood County fell under the control of the present operators, - the Southern Railway Company.<sup>6</sup> This line extends from Asheville through Western North Carolina to Murphy where it connects with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

Other railroads have been operated in Haywood County. These included the Tennessee and North Carolina Railroad which extended from Canton to Sunburst and nearby territory, a distance of about forty miles. This road is recorded in records of corporations of 1906, with a certificate of dissolution issued January 13, 1934.<sup>7</sup> The Quilantown line which has long been abandoned and has almost

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<sup>5</sup>Governor Jarvis, An Address to the Extra Session of the Legislature on the Western North Carolina Railroad, pp. 3-13.

<sup>6</sup>Arthur, Western North Carolina, pp. 476-477.

<sup>7</sup>Records of Corporations, Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Waynesville, N. C., pp. 92-97.



disappeared extended from Hazelwood to Quinlaintown. Its purpose was to carry timber to a sawmill in Hazelwood and to bring forest products to connect with the Southern Railroad in the same town. The Quinlaintown line was purchased by Reuben B. Robertson of the Champion Fibre Company in 1913.<sup>8</sup>

The Suncrest Lumber Company built about forty miles of track which connected with the Tennessee and North Carolina Railroad at Spruce. This company also owned a line running from Waynesville to Flat Creek. On its forty miles of track five engines and eighty standard steel cars were operated.<sup>9</sup> These railroads discontinued<sup>u</sup> operations with the coming of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The only railroad in operation in Haywood County today with the exception of the Southern Railway is the Newport Division of the Tennessee and North Carolina Railway Company. This line extends from Newport, Tennessee, to Crestmont, North Carolina, two miles of which is in Haywood County. This division was built in 1900 and has been in active operation since. It is used primarily to haul pulp wood and lumber. At present one locomotive, one rail motor bus, and one passenger car are operated over this line.<sup>10</sup>

In this period of railway development the roads of Haywood County underwent few changes. In about 1882 Zeigler and Grosscup described a journey by stage in this county in the following

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<sup>8</sup>Records of Corporations, Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Waynesville, N. C., p. 221.

<sup>9</sup>L. N. Davis in an interview with the writer, Waynesville, N. C., January 25, 1936.

<sup>10</sup>H. S. Mantooth, General Superintendent of the Tennessee and North Carolina Railway Company, in a letter to the writer from Newport, Tennessee, February 13, 1936.





manner:

One of the stage routs now in operation is from the present terminus of the Western North Carolina Railroad at Pigeon River to Waynesville, ten miles distant. . . . the tourist will take a late dinner at a large brick farmhouse beside the station, and then secure a place with the colored driver on the top of the stage. . . . I have a vivid recollection of helping, one dark April night, to unload a light Jersey wagon, drawn by two stout horses, in order to release the hub-deep sunken wheels, and allow us to proceed on our way from Waynesville.<sup>11</sup>

Between the years 1915 and 1920 the writer can remember the deplorable conditions of the roads of Haywood County. It was impossible for automobiles to pass from one section of the county to another during inclement weather. Number 10 highway, the main road in the county today, was literally a sea of mud during the rainy season, and time and time again the writer has seen cars being pulled by horses from mud into which they had sunken below their axles. However, some of the county roads had been covered with stone, including approximately three miles from Waynesville to Lake Junaluska and about the same milage from the former place towards Dellwood. Several roads soon passed through the gravel stage when the state began its great road building campaign in the early twenties. Until that time the roads were maintained by the counties rather than by the state.

"As of June 30, 1934 the State highway system in Haywood County showed a total of 131.7 miles made up as follows:

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<sup>11</sup>W. G. Zeigler and B. S. Grosscup, The Heart of the Alleghanies, p. 279.





Concrete	26.7 Miles
Asphalt	12.2 "
Surface Treated	15.5 "
Gravel	15.0 "
Graded	46.3 "
Unimproved	16.0 "

"These roads have been constructed over a period of years (1921-1934) at a cost of \$1,739,000. These figures do not include all the work done by maintenance forces but include only that done by contract or force account labor."<sup>12</sup>

From the time G. G. Logan brought his 1903 one cylinder Cadillac to Waynesville until the present time Haywood County has had service car transportation. Mr. Logan's automobile was used to carry passengers from Asheville to this county, and to make trips to other nearby places.<sup>13</sup> Touring cars, with Henderson Jones as the outstanding owner and operator, continued to give service on regular schedules between Asheville and Waynesville until the first bus line was formed in 1925. In this year the Independent Coach Line, Incorporated, was formed with a capital stock of \$30,000.<sup>14</sup> In 1936 the Smoky Mountain Stages operate about five buses daily in each direction between Asheville, Atlanta, Murphy, and Chattanooga by the way of Canton and Waynesville, Haywood County.

In 1936 Haywood County has excellent freight service over the line of the Southern Railway Company. Besides this means of transportation, motor express is operated on a daily schedule from east to west and return. Commerce has developed in proportion to the

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<sup>12</sup>L. W. Payne, Assistant to State Highway Engineer, in a letter to the writer from Raleigh, N. C., March 11, 1935.

<sup>13</sup>G. G. Logan in a letter to the writer from Cherokee, N.C., February 21, 1936.

<sup>14</sup>Record of Corporations, Book II, pp. 128-130.



advancement of transportation lines and Haywood County has taken one of the foremost places occupied by counties of Western North Carolina.

Although the development of transportation was unusual within this mountainous county following the reconstruction period, its importance was probably overshadowed by the phenomenal growth of agriculture. The first crops were corn, potatoes, apples, and wheat. Meats, especially those from the hog, and wheat were the chief exports, but forest products and apples soon took their places. Too, beef cattle began to assume an important economical position. In 1878 barn-cured tobacco was introduced into Haywood County.<sup>15</sup> This tobacco was usually hauled to Asheville where it was sold at an average price of about forty cents. Mr. Davis, the tobacco grower referred to above, said that the barn-cured period of tobacco ended in 1892 or 1893. While remaining here it was one of the principal money crops, probably assuming first place. The census of 1880 reports only one hundred acres of tobacco, while the same records ten years later show more than seventeen times as much acreage producing 861,096 pounds of barn-cured tobacco. In 1925 W. A. Moore and W. C. Morrow introduced air-cured tobacco to Haywood County.<sup>16</sup>

Other crops showed the same remarkable growth. In 1890 Haywood County produced almost eight thousand bushels of Irish potatoes; in 1930 nearly seventy thousand bushels were dug.

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<sup>15</sup>Z. C. Davis, in a letter to the writer from Waynesville, N.C., August, 1935.

<sup>16</sup>W. D. Smith in a letter to the writer from Waynesville, N.C., August, 1935.





Between the same years the production of apples increased approximately five-fold. The 1930 census figures compared with those of 1900 indicate that this county had almost doubled the number of cattle produced while other live-stock had been on the decrease. Also, small grain harvested showed a great decline during the first thirty years of the twentieth century. In 1930 there were 2,125 farms, with an average size of seventy-five acres, which had a value per acre of sixty-four dollars.<sup>17</sup>

Agriculture has been the most important industry of Haywood County since its formation; and, even though manufacturing and other industries have assumed significant places, farming continues to play the leading role in the economic life of this section. Early people did not take proper care of the land. When old soil was exhausted new could be obtained for the clearing. Today this frontier area is developing from a land of exploitation of resources to a section with a definite program of conservation. In 1930 there were 2400 farms in Haywood; in 1935 there were 3300 with the average farm containing sixty-five acres.<sup>18</sup> In 1930 there were more than five times as many people engaged in farming as in any other industry.<sup>19</sup> Of this vast number engaged in farming many owned their own farms while others were renters. The proportion of tenancy in Haywood County is shown in this table.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>U. S. Census, 1930, vol. 11, part 11.

<sup>18</sup>W. D. Smith in a letter to the writer from Waynesville, N.C., August, 1935.

<sup>19</sup>U. S. Census, 1930.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid.





Table 6

Year	Proportion of tenants
1920	34.3%
1925	20.7%
1930	31.9%

All tenants numbered 677 in 1930. Of this number only 112 were related to the landlords. There were, in the same year among this number, only seventy-one cash tenants. Seventy of the cash tenants were not related to the landlord while one cash tenant was related to the owner. The tenants not related to the landlord paid an average of one dollar and four cents per acre while the tenant who was related to the owner paid an average of sixty cents per acre.<sup>21</sup>

In 1933 this county produced over 300,00 bushels of corn, \$26,178 worth of wheat, Irish potatoes valued at over \$50,000, and possessed livestock valued at more than one-half million dollars.<sup>22</sup> Apples bring a cash income of \$250,000, while the yearly income of tobacco is \$100,000. The farmer realizes \$150,000 yearly from forest products sold to manufacturing establishments within the county.<sup>23</sup> Mr. Smith, County Agent, stated that there was a steady increase in all important crops within the county. The

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<sup>21</sup>U. S. Census, 1930

<sup>22</sup>Information from the State Department of Agriculture, 1933.

<sup>23</sup>W. D. Smith in a letter from Waynesville, N. C., August, 1935.



Western Carolina Creamery has been recently established and is ready to handle hundreds of gallons of cream which are not being produced here at the present time. Trucking has become one of the fastest developing phases of the farming industry. In fact all parts of the farming industry have seen an upward trend within the memory of the writer. Improved methods of farming, improved roads, increased home markets, and various other changes have given this industry a wonderful growth during the past five years.

In 1928 the Waynesville schools added vocational training to their course of study, with W. D. Smith as the first instructor. One year later J. L. Robinson was employed as county agricultural agent. Since that time vocational training has been made a part of the curriculum in all high schools of the county.

Soon after the completion of the Western North Carolina Railroad manufacturing establishments began to appear in Haywood County. Flour and meal mills were followed by those for the manufacturing of lumber. After these the growth of the county's four major manufacturing industries began. In 1883 the Junaluska Tannery began operations at Hazelwood and has never closed since that time. A cut-sole plant was added in 1933. This tannery and cut-sole now give employment to about two hundred men and have a yearly payroll of approximately two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.<sup>24</sup>

Soon after the opening of the twentieth century three furniture factories started operations in Waynesville and Hazelwood.

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<sup>24</sup>L. M. Richeson in an interview with the writer, Hazelwood, N. C., 1936.





Today, however, due to poor management only one plant remains, the Unagusta Manufacturing Company at Hazelwood. This company makes suites of furniture which are sold to dealers in several parts of the country. The hardwoods found in this area are especially suitable for furniture making, and the natives seem talented in woodcraft.

The Unagusta began making crude furniture in about 1901 with twenty-five employees. The building was one-fourth the size of the present factory and power was furnished by a steam engine. From a small beginning this furniture factory has gradually grown until the present building has six departments in two stories, containing six thousand feet of floor space. All machines used by the one hundred and sixty-five employees are operated by electricity. The Unagusta Manufacturing Company receives supplies from many parts of the world and sells its furniture in sufficient quantity to make Hazelwood noted as one of the principal furniture towns of North Carolina.<sup>25</sup>

The next of the four major industries to be established was the Champion Fibre Company of Canton. This is one of the leading factories of the South and by far the outstanding manufacturing establishment of Haywood County. It was organized in 1907 by the late Peter G. Thomson of Cincinnati, Ohio, primarily for the purpose of supplying sulphite and soda pulp to his paper mill at Hamilton, Ohio. As originally designed, the plant included processes for the manufacture of sulphite pulp, soda pulp, container

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<sup>25</sup>R. L. Prevost in an interview with the writer, Hazelwood, N. C., 1936.





board, and tannic acid. The determinants for its location in Western North Carolina were a large supply of many varieties of woods, abundant and intelligent labor, suitable water, and accessibility to market.

This company's development from the beginning has been steady. It has included not only other processes for the manufacture of pulp, but also for the production of paper and miscellaneous by-products. These include the manufacture of a wide range of papers and boards, the manufacture of sulphate and mechanical pulp, of soda bleach and caustic soda, the recover of lime, the production of adhesive extract from sulphite liquors, and the manufacture of turpentine.

Today the company is unique in several respects. It is perhaps the only mill utilizing all of the standard processes of reducing wood to pulp; that is, the sulphite, soda, and sulphate chemical processes, and the mechanical process. It has the largest and most modern machine ever erected for the making of the higher grades of white paper. It is conspicuous in the tannic acid industry as its productive capacity is one of the greatest of the mills of the United States.

The plant consumes each day approximately sixty standard carloads of pulp wood, 600 tons of coal, 120,000 pounds of lime, 35,000 pounds of sulphur, 100,000 pounds of salt, 12,000 kilowatt hours of electric current, and 20,000 horse power of steam. The plant receives wood from North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia; coal from Kentucky and Virginia; lime from Tennessee; and salt from Virginia. The woods include chestnut, pine, poplar, hemlock, spruce, gum, bass, and cottonwood.



The daily average production is approximately as follows: 350 tons of pulp, 150 tons of paper, forty tons of board, 100 tons of tannic acid, two tons of solid caustic soda, two tons of adhesive extract, five tons of rosin soap and cleanser, and 300 gallons of turpentine. Over a period of two weeks selected at random the Champion Fibre Company had carload shipments going to twenty-two states, the District of Columbia, Cuba, and Canada. These cars included caustic soda, lighin pitch, printing paper, pulpboard, dry and liquid tanning extract, soda wood pulp, sulphite wood pulp, fine tar oil, wrapping paper, and wood turpentine. In its beginning only 700 men were employed. The present employment, however, is 2,329 employees who receive a monthly payroll of approximately \$260,000. Enough wood to furnish the plant for one hundred days is stored on its fifty acre yard.

The Champion Fibre Company's organization is formed along modern lines, specialists of broad experience and technical training being in charge of various departments. In the effort to attain mechanical and chemical efficiency, however, the human element has not been neglected. The plant includes a completely equipped community center, operated UNDER the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, a workmen's village, cooperative gracery, emergency hospital in charge of a trained nurse, safety and welfare department, and a school of vocational training.

The plant was established with a view to permanency, and due regard has always been had for conserving the factors necessary for its existence. Particular attention has been given to conserving a supply of its principal raw material, wood, through the acquisition of large areas of timberlands placed under the supervision of a forester. The principal officers of Champion Fibre Company





at present are: Alexander Thomas, Chairman of the Board; Reuben B. Robertson, President and General Manager; and Charles S. Bryant, Secretary and Treasurer.<sup>26</sup>

In 1926 the Royal and Pilkington Company, Incorporated, built a factory at Hazelwood which uses eighty-four employees. The plant manufactures a special weave of tapestry which is readily purchased by furniture plants.<sup>27</sup>

The following information taken from the United States Census will show the growth of manufacturing industries and the influence of the Champion Fibre Company.

Table 7.

Date	Capital	Employees	Wages	Value of Material	Value of Products
1880	\$ 30,160	24	\$3,540	\$ 43,759	\$ 52,868
1890	115,335	98	18,929	102,281	146,506
1900	343,295	152	31,475	204,974	331,423
1920	-----	1,859	1,732,140	4,832,237	8,894,833

In 1880 there were twenty manufacturing establishments with twenty-four workers receiving a little over three thousand dollars for their labor. Fifty years later, in 1930, there were twenty-five establishments in Haywood County with 2,066 wage earners, not counting salaried employees, receiving an annual wage of \$2,340,641.<sup>28</sup>

Besides the four major industries Haywood County has other manufacturing activities which add much wealth to this locality.

<sup>26</sup>G. W. Phillips, In an interview with the writer, Canton, N. C., 1936.

<sup>27</sup>B. E. Colquitt, In an interview with the writer, Hazelwood, N. C., 1936.

<sup>28</sup>United States Census, 1880, 1930.





Chief of these is the cutting of timber for building purposes. Especially was this true before the national government began curtailing these activities by the acquisition of land for the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In 1929, according to the State Department of Conservation and Development, this county had a forest area of approximately 248,208 acres, or 70 percent of the total land area. It is estimated that in this territory there are 360,000,000 board feet of saw timber.<sup>29</sup> In 1929 it was reported that 20 sawmills produce about 30,000,000 board feet of lumber per annum. And, of course, to supply the major industries a considerable quantity of tan bark and pulpwood are produced each year. It is estimated by the same authority that the stumpage value of the timber cut annually is around \$200,000. In 1936 there are about ten sawmills in the county, the largest being the one belonging to M. O. Galloway which is located within the city limits of Waynesville. Much is being re-forested. Much timber still stands to be cut.

Eighteen years ago T. J. Walls began the inlaid wood industry which has since caused the establishment of three other small woodworking shops, giving steady employment to approximately fifty men throughout the year. These small factories use a variety of native woods in making each article, which include boxes, card tables, checkerboards, and trays. Listed under novelties these useful household articles are placed on the market in many sections of the country.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup>N. C. Resources and Industries, 1929, p. 174.

<sup>30</sup>T. J. Walls, In an interview with the writer, Waynesville, N. C., 1936.



At the beginning of the twentieth century numerous mining claims were granted by the State; however no mines have been developed to hold any important position in the industries of this county. At different periods during the preceding years operations on a small scale have taken place, and in 1936 a mica mine is being worked near Hazelwood. In 1926 the total value of mineral production in the county was \$2,502.<sup>31</sup> Besides mica other minerals are kyanite, low grade copper ore, feldspar, and kaolin clay.

One of the most important phases of the economic life of Haywood County consists in the service rendered to tourists. The yearbook of 1902 listed nine hotels and boarding houses in Waynesville. Now there are approximately twenty hotels and an untold number of boarding houses scattered in all sections of the county. Besides these tourist accommodations the county has numerous camps and tourist homes. Both directly and indirectly the many visitors contribute much to the prosperity of the county.

One of the county's most valuable developments is that of electric power. Waynesville had the first electricity, supplied by a plant located on Richland Creek near the site of the local ice plant. However, a power plant built in 1904 on the Pigeon River in the northern part of the county was the first major development. Under the ownership of B. J. Sloan, Thomas Stringfield, and S. C. Welch it began furnishing electricity to Waynesville in 1904. This plant, known as the Haywood Electric Power Company, possessed eleven and one-half miles of transmission line, had generating equipment capable of producing 400 kilowatt. The plant was slightly improved in 1907-08 and began serving the Champion Fibre Company of Canton, which used approximately 1000 horse power. Waynesville secured their

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<sup>31</sup>N. C. Resources and Industries, 1929, p. 174.





power for \$208.33 per month.

In 1925 the Haywood Electric Power Company was optioned to the Carolina Power and Light Company was optioned and in 1929 sold to them. No part of the plant, except temporary use of the lines, was ever used by the new owner.<sup>32</sup>

In 1927 the Carolina Power and Light Company began the construction of their Waterville Plant on the Pigeon River. This project was completed in the early part of 1931 with an installed generating capacity of 145,000 horse power. The dam is of concrete construction and is 180 feet high and 870 feet long, backing water up stream for approximately eighteen miles. The dam is connected to the generating plant by a tunnel fourteen feet in diameter and six miles long. This company has sixty-seven miles of transmission lines in Haywood County and in addition the distribution system in Clyde, Canton, and Hazelwood. Besides these towns Waynesville is served by this power company.<sup>33</sup> Only two rural lines are found in Haywood County, serving one mile on the Lake Junaluska-Crabtree road and twelve miles on the Canton-Bethel road. Officials of the county are attempting to secure lower rates on power and more mileage of lines for rural settlements. Besides the twelve families furnished by the rural lines there are twenty-five or thirty families in the Ivy Hill township served by private plants having a capacity of thirty volts each.<sup>34</sup>

Other important developments within the county, all occurring

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<sup>32</sup>Hugh J. Sloan, In an interview with the writer, Waynesville, N. C., 1936.

<sup>33</sup>William L. Yoder, Assistant to the General Manager, Carolina Power and Light Company, in a letter to the writer from Raleigh, N.C. April 1, 1935.

<sup>34</sup>W. D. Smith, In an interview with the writer, Waynesville, N.C. 1936.





within the twentieth century, include the apple industry which was started here about thirty years ago by R. N. Barber. Besides his orchard of more than 14,000 trees, four or five other commercial orchards of naticable size are at present packing apples for the market.

In 1900, according to the Asheville Daily Gazette dated February 3, 1902, Waynesville's Independent Telephone Line began operating under the ownership of W. H. Cole, S. C. Satterthwaite, J. P. Swift, and R. D. Gilmer. Plans were soon under way to make connections with the Asheville line, and to extend local operations to nearby communities within the county. In 1936 Waynesville and Canton have good telephone service. Clyde, Hazelwood, and Lake Junaluska have a few telephones each. Other lines of communication are scattered over the county, but there are still five townships without this service.

Another important development consisted in the establishment in 1901 of the county's first fire department. The equipment consisted of two, two wheeled reels with five hundred feet of hose, two nozzles, and a few wrenches. A chief, an assistant, and twelve members received their pole and street taxes for handling this equipment. In 1923 Waynesville bought a fire truck and other necessary supplies valued at twelve thousand dollars.<sup>35</sup> In the meantime Canton has been supplied with excellent equipment; thus, this town and Waynesville are the only places in Haywood County with fire fighting service worth notation. The development of public utilities and industrial corporations have been the leading factors in the progress made within Haywood County during the twentieth century.

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<sup>35</sup>C. G. Logan, In a letter to the writer from Cherokee, N. C., February 1936.



In the meantime schools, churches, and newspapers were gradually improving, and continued to occupy a significant position in the lives of the people within this county. In 1899, according to the United States Census, 3,258 pupils attended school and were taught by thirty-four male and twenty-two female teachers. This included fifty-two colored students being instructed by four male teachers. Since 1881 Haywood County has elected a superintendent of schools. However, until 1899 there was not a public high school within the county. Public instruction was offered in the elementary field for three or four months each year with teachers poorly paid and pupils very scarce in proportion to the school population. Many private institutions continued to exist, such as the one advertized by George W. Hahn. This instructor placed an advertisement in the local paper showing his school at Turpin's Chapel as "a school for boys and girls who desire to study, not play: be governed, not govern; do their own work, not have it done." Tuition ranged from one to two dollars according to the courses, and "good Board could be had for five or six dollars per month".

In 1897 an editorial appeared in the local paper appealing to the people to establish a public school in Waynesville. The writer stated that, "Waynesville has good schools now but most of our children are barred becuae their parents are unable to pay tuition." <sup>36</sup> In 1902 the same paper stated that the Waynesville Graded School was organized in 1899, and the legislature appointed the following members of the Board of Trustees: J. K. Boone, J. D. Boone, T.L. Green, Doctor B. F. Smathers, Major W. W. Stringfield, C. S. White,





W. H. Faucette, J. L. Williams, and Honorable R. D. Gilmer. The first superintendent was W. C. Allen, who reported an enrollment of over 300 to the new graded school. In 1902 the membership had increased almost twenty-five percent, and nine grades were used to prepare students for college. In 1911 a total enrollment of 560 was reported.

37

On July 19, 1912 the same authority stated that "there are fifty-four schools in the county (including three graded schools and two state high schools) with about eighty teachers licensed". This second high school mentioned was in Canton, which was started in 1907, and has since become one of the foremost schools within the county.

In 1922 Canton enlarged its township system and one year later Waynesville voted a bond issue of \$177,000 for the same purpose. In 1936 the county has five consolidated school districts with a high school in each. These schools are accredited by the state board of education. In January of 1937 the Waynesville township system opened the first junior high school in the county, and a few months previous this school system's teams played their football games on the athletic field containing the first stadium to be erected in North Carolina west of Asheville.

In 1936 Haywood County had 8563 white students taught by 211 teachers, and an enrollment of 194 colored students taught by 6 instructors. It appears that the schools in this county need much improvement both in physical equipment and scholastic attainment.

37

Waynesville Courier, May 19, 1911.





However the schools of Haywood County have had a former students some of the outstanding citizens of the state and nation. Boys and girls from these schools have made fair records in institutions of higher learning. Still, in many ways, this county is far behind some others in academic attainment, and it is the desire of leading educators to raise standards both for students and teachers, add another grade to the high schools, and place manual training in other schools besides those of Waynesville and Canton.

Following the reconstruction period, church memberships increased. Methodist and Baptist continued to dominate in numbers as well as in value of church property. However the Presbyterians, beginning in 1875, now have a splendid membership at their five churches within the county. The Episcopal Church, formed in 1878 but not mentioned in the census of 1890, has three buildings, each having a small but active membership. In the 1890 census the Methodist Episcopal was shown as having 504 members. In 1936 this organization has doubled its membership and has churches in several sections of the county. Also, for several years, Waynesville has had a Catholic church with forty or fifty in membership.

In 1890 all churches in the county had a membership of 4,292 with a total valuation of all church property equal \$60,375. On August 24, 1933 the Baptist association alone reported a total membership of 4,959 and church property valued at \$142,950. This organization, about the same size as the Methodist, possessed thirty-three churches and had twenty preachers to serve their congregations.

One of the most important events for Haywood County during



the twentieth century was the selection of Tuscola (now Lake Junaluska) as the summer assembly grounds of the Methodist Church. S.C. Welch and Bishop James Atkins, of Waynesville, met with the committee that decided upon this location.

An editorial in the Asheville Citizen had the following to say in regard to this beautiful assembly grounds:

. . .Formally opened in 1913, Junaluska proved its

value from the very first. In the years that have followed thousands and tens of thousands of Methodists, and thousands of others who are not Methodists, have found wholesome pleasure and recreation there, summer after summer, it has been the gathering place for some of the most important religious movements in the South, and has been a center of inspiration beyond all calculation.

. . .There is a beautiful lake, with a shore line of over four miles; a concrete dam which cost \$110,000; a water system which cost \$44,000; a hotel which cost \$47,000; roads and sidewalks; an auditorium which seats 4,000 people; a golf course of 100 acres; some 300 acres yet to be sold off in lots; and so on, and so on....39

The property mentioned in the above editorial became the property of the Methodist Church in 1936 when its members raised \$105,000 to clear it of its bonded indebtedness. Besides the property owned by the church, private owners have numerous summer homes, hotels, and other possessions within the limits of the assembly grounds. One of the outstanding features of the summer program is the Junaluska Summer School which has been conducted for a number of years by officials of Duke University.

Although newspapers have influenced the citizens of Haywood County few have been preserved for reference. There were no colleges where papers may have been stored, and besides the people

38

Waynesville Courier, June 17, 1910.

39

Asheville Citizen, July 26, 1936.





of the period were not interested in records. In 1936 there are two newspapers here, the Waynesville Mountaineer and the Cantor Enterprise, both published weekly. The first file in the office of the Waynesville paper is that of 1908. The paper of that file indicates strong sentiment for prohibition, upholds the Democratic party, and, among other things, begins to boost this section as a tourist center. The first paper to be printed west of Asheville was edited in Waynesville and came from the press there on January 16, 1884. This small newspaper, published each Wednesday with a subscription rate of one dollar and half a year, was bold in stating that its politics were Democratic, commented on the poor condition of the roads, the coming of the railroad to Waynesville,  
40  
and other interesting items.

Since that period the county has usually had some form of newspaper to express, in a fairly accurate manner, the sentiment of the people within the territory served.

In the past ten years Haywood County has added many public buildings to its list of accomplishments. Leading this construction program is the \$260,000 courthouse of granite standing in the center of Waynesville's business section. Farther up Main Street is a new post-office, and a six thousand dollar addition to the Baptist church. One of the most beautiful churches in Western North Carolina has recently been completed in Waynesville by the Methodists, and the same denomination constructed the Junaluska Methodist Church at Lake Junaluska. At the present time two armories, one at Waynesville and one at Canton, are under





construction and will cost \$40,000 each. Other important public buildings have been erected during the twentieth century. To this building program numerous hotels, merchantile establishments, a hospital, lodge halls, and beautiful homes have been added.

In the period from reconstruction until the present Haywood developed an interesting political history. In the fifteen national elections form 1880 through 1936 the Democratic candidate for President polled a majority thirteen times. The two losses by this party occured in 1896 when William McKinley got 1901 votes to 1039 obtained by William J. Bryan, and in 1928 when Herbert Hoover received 4472 votes as compared with the 4173 given the Democratic candidate, Alfred E. Smith. In the general election of 1932 Haywood County gave President Roosevelt 6800 votes while Herbert Hoover polled only 3081, a Democratic majority of more than two to one. In the same election, however, two precincts, Cecil and East Fork, gave Republican majorities to local, state, and national candidates. Comparing this bote with that of a decade earlier, it is noticed that the same precincts record comparably equal results with Big Creek and Clyde giving a stronger vote to the Republican party. These townships have possessed strong leadership in the minority party, and it is believed by many that outstanding leaders in other sections of the county would have materially changed the complexion of this county's politics.

Strenth in the ranks of the Democratic party is expected in a county of North Carolina. Unusual strength in the Republican party is not so easily explained. The greatest boost to its power in Haywood County was furnished by union sentiment during the War Between the States. In the election of 1896 the conservative element gave McKinley a majority because they were afraid





of Bryan's monetary policy. In 1928 Haywood County gave a majority to the Republican party due to its dry platform. Too, several voters of this section ~~did~~ not favor the religious beliefs of Alfred E. Smith. Furthermore, according to the opinion of political observers in Haywood County today, it appears that the Republican party has added strength from time to time due to **its** desire for a higher tariff on cattle and wool. In all elections the minority party is strong and has placed candidates in office on numerous occasions.

On the probition issue of 1881 Haywood County voted against the measure by a few votes, but in 1908 a favorable ~~vote~~ of 1928 to 81 was polled. It appears that representatives in the state legislature have not hesitated to increase various boards in order to change the political policies of the county. For some recent examples, in 1927 J. R. Boyd increased the county commissioners form three to five members. At the following general assembly R. E. Hipps decreased the same board by two members. In 1935 J. T. Bailey increased the board of county commissioners form three to seven members.

Other trends in legislative affairs indicate that the people have favored hospitals, roads, and schools; that **laws** were enacted to encourage manufacturing; and that later restrictions were placed on activities of industrial organizations. In some cases laws have been enacted to prohibit manufacturing plants from running waste into streams, and of course the formation of the Smoky Mountain National Park restricted lumbering activities. Citizens of Haywood County were unusually favorable toward the establishment of the Western Carolina Railroad, ~~voting~~ for





legislation aiding its interests. In the great majority of cases interest in political races remains within the Democratic primary because a win here usually means victory in the general election. Since reconstruction political trends in this county have followed, for the most part, an even and expected course with very few disturbances to change the policies of the majority party.

One of the most important events, political or otherwise, to favor Haywood County was the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In 1874 people in this section began to dream of a national park, and it is believed that the first article on the subject, which appeared in the early 1880's was written by the Reverend C. D. Smith, a Methodist minister of Franklin. <sup>41</sup>

The first organized effort appeared in Asheville in 1899 when more than two hundred people from the southeast assembled to discuss plans for so great an undertaking. Among Haywood County's leading politicians present at that assembly were Robert D. Gilmer, W.T. Crawford, James M. Moody, W. B. and G. S. Ferguson, and George H. Smathers. A bill appropriating \$10,000,000 passed the United States Senate, and received favor from the President, but was defeated in the lower house. In 1924 the Temple bill allowed Congress to accept lands for a park as soon as 427,000 acres were conveyed. Citizens donated a million dollars, the states of North Carolina and Tennessee subscribed two million dollars each, and the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation donated five million dollars to complete the necessary amount for the completion of a national park in this section. A large portion of land within Haywood County was purchased for park use, and Soco Gap in this county became one of the most important entrances in the eastern side. Even though the necessary funds were available on March 30,





1928, the park has not been officially dedicated.

Already more visitors come to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park than to any other. It is estimated that three quarters of a million people visit this section annually and leave around \$18,000,000, and the National Park service believes that with the completion of the Scenic Parkway and the formal opening of the park that more than 2,000,000 visitors will pour into this section to leave \$100,000,000 annually.<sup>42</sup>

Another important event to the citizens of this county was the World War. The People profited by increased prices, were very patriotic during the war period, rode the wave of prosperity until 1929 when the depression closed two of their three banks, destroyed the value of their produce and labor, and left many of the heretofore prosperous citizens in dire circumstances. To the World War Haywood County sent eight hundred and sixty-seven participants. Eight were killed in action, and fifteen others died while in service.<sup>43</sup>

However, neither the war nor its following depression could entirely disrupt the material progress of Haywood County for any length of time. Progress was being made in numerous ways. Roads were built, a furniture plant at Hazelwood began operations, wood-working factories were built, the Champion Fibre Company made an addition to its mill, and scientific farming brought a greater income to the farmers of Haywood County. Indeed this area has accomplished many outstanding achievements since the beginning of the depression in 1929,

<sup>42</sup>

C. R. Summer in the Citizen-Times, June 9, 1935.

<sup>43</sup>

Letter from the War Department, Washington, D.C., 1936.



The progress made by Haywood County since reconstruction may well be shown by the tax records. In 1870 the county had an assessed value of real estate of \$438,760, personal estates valued at \$365,432, and with a true valuation of both placed at a little over one and one-half million dollars. The total state and county tax was \$10,827.<sup>44</sup>

In 1936 the total value of real estate was \$18,824,034, with approximately two-thirds of this on rural acres, the remainder on 3,028 town lots. The County's personal property valuation was \$2,452,192, and with an actual value on both personal and real of about fifty million dollars. Besides the above taxes the value from the state board of assessment gave the county a valuation of \$1,481,175, making a grand total for all county assessment of \$22,757,401. The total county tax for the above year was \$255,065.<sup>45</sup>  
.59.

According to the annual report of the state auditor Haywood ~~EX~~ County had a total tax of a little over nine thousand dollars in 1877; approximately fifteen thousand in 1887; slightly over fifty-three thousand dollars in 1907; and a state and county tax of \$92,140.71 in 1917. Thus, over the period of years since reconstruction, Haywood County evidently has increased her wealth at an unusually rapid rate. An increase in taxes from slightly over a thousand dollars in 1877 to nearly four hundred thousand in 1933 appears to give a vivid picture of Haywood County's material prosperity.

In the meantime population had increased almost four-fold. There were 7,921 people here in 1870, as compared with 28,273 in 1910. The urban population in 1880 was only 225, while fifty years later





four towns of the county had 9,157 people. Waynesville received its greatest growth in the last ten years of the nineteenth century when the population was increased three-fold. Canton, the second largest city in Western North Carolina, increased its population five-fold within the first ten years of the present century and has doubled the population each ten years thereafter.

46

Haywood County has had a worthy history, interesting in all phases of its development. It has kept pace with its neighbors in progressive movements. Nevertheless economic resources in this county are still undeveloped. Co-operative marketing should raise ~~the~~ farming from the level of self-sufficiency into the commercial class. Industrial organizations have only indicated their future development, and citizens of this county have to realize yet the unsurpassed possibilities for tourist trade. Better schools and churches are sorely needed to reduce illiteracy, individualism, and localism and increase socialization and co-operation.

In conclusion, the writer would cast no shadow upon the history of Haywood County. From an infant in 1808 this area has developed into a wonderful adulthood under the direction of worthy citizens. In 1936 this section had water power, raw materials, adaptable labor, good soil, beautiful scenery, an excellent climate, and splendid leadership. These are the reasons the future of Haywood County is bright.

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<sup>46</sup>United States Census, 1936.





I would like to mention the "moonshine" business. However, it is insignificant in Haywood County. When compared to other industries, even minor ones. John Cobe, three times sheriff, said 90 % used in Haywood County was produced elsewhere. Jake Lowe, twice sheriff, made almost the same statement. Too, the business has declined during the past few years. Really at an industry of value compared with others it is small. We drink \$100,000 worth of the \$2 per gal. moonshine, according to these men, but only \$10,000 made here.



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